

## The Odyssey Vocabulary Assignment

Midrange Grade (1.5-2 pgs. in length, typed, double-spaced)

Due:

This assignment requires you to define and use 20 new vocabulary words in a creative and purposeful fashion. If one character in the *Odyssey* had the chance to write a letter to another character, what would they say?

From the list of words on the back of this assignment, choose 20 and integrate them into a “letter” written from one character in the *Odyssey* to another. Your letter should be written in a standard letter format, and it should be 1.5-2 pgs. in length. The most important factors in this assignment are that you use the full number of words correctly and that you have a clear and definite purpose to your letter--do NOT summarize!

- You can choose the letter writer and the letter recipient, but make sure that your letter has a specific purpose or argument. Do not simply summarize what has happened; instead offer some new information. When choosing your characters, consider which character might have something important to say to another character. The purpose or argument of your letter should pertain to the plot or themes of the *Odyssey*, and your letter should serve to illuminate or expand upon a theme, conflict, or situation that already exists in the poem. This element of the assignment is equally important as your correct use of the vocabulary!
- Be creative; however, your letter should remain consistent with the poem. For example, you can't change any major facts or plot details, but you can invent background.
- Aim to create a “voice” for your character: if they already have an established voice in the poem, try to duplicate that; if not, create a voice for your character that fits their personality.
- Aim to incorporate your 20 words as smoothly and naturally as possible; of course, given the broad range of words, this may not be an easy task, but try your hardest.
- You can use the word in any form, as long as it means the same thing as the original word; you do not have to use the same form that appears in the poem.

IN YOUR LETTER, HIGHLIGHT OR UNDERLINE ALL OF YOUR VOCABULARY WORDS

## Vocabulary List

### Book V

marshals (v.)  
preside (v.)  
scanning (v.)  
onslaught (n.)  
kindle (v.)  
sodden (adj.)  
pine (v.)

### Book IX

spoils (n.)  
borne (v.)  
flushed (v.)  
muster (v.)  
reverent (n.)  
vintage (n. or adj.)  
recess (n.)

### Book X

ultimatum (n.)  
strapping (adj.)  
mulling (v.)  
potent (adj.)  
forebodings (n.)  
shades (n.)  
shambling (adj.)

### Book XI

realm (n.)  
blanching (adj.)  
seasoned (v.)  
sinews (n.)  
bestial (adj.)  
ignominious (adj.)  
securing (v.)