

## AP English Summertime *Blues* 2023

*\*You're responsible for obtaining your own copies of the following books*

### **Read Homer's *The Odyssey***

Read Homer's *The Odyssey*, which is the tale of the journey of Odysseus (the Roman Ulysses) back to his homeland of Ithaca after 10 years fighting the Trojan War. (Spoiler alert) After being cursed by Poseidon, it will take Odysseus 10 years to return to his beloved home. This epic is considered a kind of sequel to Homer's *The Iliad*, which chronicles the Trojan War.

There are a few translations of the text, and I am not particular about which one you use.

I recently learned that Sir Ian McKellan has recorded a translation of the text to audiobook, but it is only available on Audible. However, there are many decent audiobook recordings available on Youtube. I found one by Librivox on my Podcast app.

Answer one of the following questions using details from the story to support your answers. Your answer should be in standard essay form, and be between 500-750 words in length, but no more. Please use MLA format including a title and a citation page that includes your source text.

1. Why is it essential that the story does not end with Penelope and Odysseus' reunion, but with Odysseus' journey to see his father, Laertes?
2. Identify some actions, story elements, devices, etc... that were repeated throughout the several books. What can these repetitive story elements teach us about important values in Homer's Greece?
3. How would you characterize the treatment of female characters in this epic? What does *The Odyssey* show us about a woman's place in society in Homer's Greece?
4. Choose one of the main characters and write a character analysis that touches on his/her traits, emotions, motivations, and why he/she changes (assuming they do).

Due date: Wednesday Aug 23.

### **Read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.**

Maintain a notebook in which you write brief notes to assist you in your future analysis as well as comprehension of the novel. These notes will be reviewed at the beginning of the school year, so you should complete these in a small notebook that can be turned in to the teacher, or on looseleaf paper, etc...

Please make these notes as brief or long as is necessary for **you**. I am not asking for lengthy descriptions of each scene and character. However, your notes should span the length of the novel. They should follow one of the two formats illustrated on the back of this page. (This work will be graded, so do not neglect it)

There will be a test on *Fahrenheit 451* within the first 10 days of school.

***Personal notation, or lecture style:***

The typical (yet brief) lecture style, chronological notes use fragmented sentences. You are not being graded on your grammar or writing ability. Write notes for yourself, as they help you, not the teacher. For example, Act I Scene I of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*...

- Soldiers on watch
- Marcellus, Francisco, Horatio enter
- Mar. and Fran. have seen a ghost that looks like the old king, but bring Horatio (not a guard) to the watch
- Horatio has to see it with his own eyes
- Ghost appears - looks like Old King Hamlet.....
- Hamlet must be told

### ***The Two-Column Notebook***

Literally, looks like this title. You create two columns on the page. Chronologically you use the left column to fill in specific scene or text references. In the right column, fill in your reactions to these scenes, characters, plot points, etc... You may also use this space to write down questions that you have, and we can use them in class discussion. For example, Romeo and Juliet Act III Scene I

<p>Mercutio and Benvolio enter, and Benvolio urges Mer. to find somewhere else to be.</p>	<p>Interesting that Benvolio uses the fact that it is hot outside as a reason to move. Never thought about it before, but heat does affect tempers, but I like Merc's retort that Ben. is kinda being a hypocrite. Merc. reminds Ben. of all the times he challenged people to fights for no particular reason at all</p>
<p>Tybalt does not want to fight anyone but Romeo, but Romeo speaks of love, while Merc. is disgusted by this reaction</p>	<p>Mercutio seals his own fate because he can not hold his tongue. Romeo's talk of loving Tybalt enrages Ty. of course! If Romeo had remembered who he was talking to, he should not have been surprised at this. Merc. made his own fate though. He did not have to fight in Romeo's stead. He's not even a Montague.</p>