

## Lesson Plan Outline:

### *The Odyssey*, Greek Mythology, and Epic Heroism (5 weeks)

*\*resources attached in "materials" section of lesson plan \**

1. Greek mythology: Basic myths, gods & goddesses of Mount Olympus, and the Trojan War (1 week)
  - a. Introduce basic myths
    - i. Read through in groups/ assign for homework; assign individual activities accordingly (see handout attached)
  - b. Gods and goddesses activity
    - i. Assign god/goddess of Mount Olympus to each student in class
      1. Students do quick research on their god/goddess' characteristics, demeanor/personality, purpose, connection to other deities, etc.
      2. Students present their god/goddess in front of class
        - a. Encourage use of props and theatrics (act, sound, dress appropriately)
        - b. Students take notes on sheet (attached) as to what we should remember about each (teacher-led)
  - c. Individual research: Trojan War and its connection to *The Odyssey*
  - d. Students take notes and discuss: Trojan War, epic characteristics, epic heroism characteristics
  
2. Pre-reading and during-reading activities: *The Odyssey* (2 weeks)
  - a. Anticipation guide (attached in PowerPoint slide)
    - i. Teacher puts prompt on board and students decide their opinion on each
    - ii. Student assigns sides of the room according to student opinions. Students move to one side of the room or the other, depending on whether they agree, disagree, or remain neutral on each statement
    - iii. Group discussion ensues to get students interested in the themes, topics, etc. In the text
  - b. Vocabulary work (attached)
  - c. Begin reading *The Odyssey* (supplement with videos)
    - i. Watch video: Everything you need to know about the *Odyssey* (TEDx):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Z9FQxcCAZ0>
    - ii. Show movie clips from *The Odyssey* throughout (1997 version directed by Andrei Konchalovsky)
    - iii. Watch video: "Drawn History: The Trojan War" (History)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOAraslCkgU>
    - iv. Watch video: The Science Behind the Myth: Homer's "Odyssey" (TedEd):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVo225pUaSA> (:05)

- v. Watch video: Odysseus' ship (History) (:05)  
<http://www.history.com/topics/greek-mythology/videos#odysseus-ship>
  - vi. Watch Shmoop video on epic heroism:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgyU9UGnsv4>
- d. Research literary devices
- i. Assign each student literary device from sheet (attached)
  - ii. Students look up definitions and create examples, then share back with class.  
Write down examples on sheet
  - iii. Students look through *The Odyssey* text to find the best example of each literary device in the text itself. Write it down on sheet over time as students read
- e. Epic hero assignment (attached)
- i. Students use text to prove whether or not Odysseus is truly and "epic hero," despite his many mistakes
  - ii. Students find the best example of each characteristic and fill it out on their sheet, including direct quotes and line numbers for each
- f. During reading strategies:
- i. "Main events" graphic organizer (attached)
  - ii. "Film Strip" graphic organizer (attached)
  - iii. "Dear Diary" assignment (attached)
  - iv. Odyssey post cards assignment (attached)
  - v. "Cause and Effect" organizer (attached)
  - vi. Extension projects (attached)
- g. "Sentence Types" grammar activity
- i. Review comma and semi-colon usage
  - ii. Review clause types: independent, dependent
  - iii. Have students use their sheets (attached) to discover what types of clauses are needed in each type of sentence: compound, complex, and compound-complex, in an attempt to improve and vary their writing
  - iv. Students write down rules (work in partners) for each and come up with original sentence examples for each one (see sheet)
3. The Odyssey: Reading Quiz (1 day)
- a. See attachment
4. Myth writing assignment (1 week)
- a. Discuss various types of myths: creation stories, adventure myths, etc.
  - b. Students create characters that meet "epic hero" characteristics
    - i. Use Read Write Think's "Hero's Journey" creator (see attachment for instructions)
      - 1. <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/hero-journey-30069.html>

- c. Once an epic hero is created and established, students fill out planning sheet (attached) to plan out storyline
  - d. Students write original myth, incorporating epic hero, Greek mythology, sentence types, literary devices discussed (see assignment attached)
5. Hero conversation paper (1 week)
- a. Bringing “heroism” to modern day
    - i. Discuss heroes we have in our lives, complete free-writes on heroes in students’ lives
  - b. Students begin research on “modern day” heroes that work internationally to improve our world in some way
    - i. Fill out “International figures” chart to collect information (attached)
    - ii. Mini-lesson: MLA citation
  - c. Mini lesson: researching with credible sources
    - i. Find article that discusses “hero” and fill out “Chain of Events” organizer to organize information (attached)
    - ii. Find two other credible sources and students take notes on hero’s life
  - d. Pass out assignment sheet & discuss: Hero Conversation Paper (attached)
    - i. Students write conversation between Odysseus (using information from “Epic Hero” sheet previously completed) and their researched hero of choice, discussing how each is an epic hero
      - 1. Work in personality and characteristics of each person, cataloging their accomplishments in accordance with epic heroism
    - ii. Mini-lesson: writing dialog & punctuation
    - iii. Complete peer edit sheet when finished