



Warrior Chorus: Florida Reading List

NOTE: All page numbers refer to Homer's *Odyssey*, translated by Emily Wilson, (W. W. Norton & Company, 2017).
Reading selections may be adapted based on content covered during our meetings and the interests of the group. Any changes to reading selections for a given session will be announced at least one week in advance.

WEEK 1 (Thursday January 16, 2020, 7-8:30pm, VFW Post 8195, Hollywood, FL)

****Introductions and Context****

*No advanced preparation is necessary. Group leaders will address a variety of questions intended to introduce the *Odyssey* and the program, and ready participants for our subsequent readings/sessions: What is the *Odyssey* about and how is it organized and structured? When and where did the story take place? What are the book's main points or themes? How does it relate to us, and why is it important? How is the volume we'll use – Emily Wilson's translation – different from earlier editions? How will our program work? What should we know or consider before undertaking the reading for next week? **Those who received the book at our November welcome session should bring it with them; those who have not yet received it will get a copy at our meeting.***

- While it is not "required" that you read in advance, if you wish to do so, consider the following:
 - Wilson's Translator's Note (p. 81-91)
 - Wilson's summary of the story (p. 527-552)

WEEK 2 (Thursday January 23, 2020, 7-8:30pm, VFW Post 8195, Hollywood, FL)

****Leadership and Heroism****

Discussion Questions: How do you characterize Odysseus as a leader? What does he seem to do right, and how could he do better? Can you relate to the challenges he faces, and his successes? Are those challenges and successes universal or particular? In closing, what should we consider before undertaking the reading for next week?

- Book 9, p. 246-256 (lines 195-506) [Cyclops]
- Optional additional readings
 - Book 10, p. 259-261 (lines 1-76) [Aeolus]
 - Book 10, p. 262-263 (lines 80-138) [Laestrygonians]
 - Book 12, p. 306-308 (lines 156-222) [Sirens]
 - Book 12, p. 309-315 (lines 260-454) [Island of Helios]





WEEK 3 (Thursday January 30, 2020, 7-8:30pm, VFW Post 8195, Hollywood, FL)

****Loss and Grief****

Discussion Questions: What makes Odysseus feel fear, grief, regret? How does he handle those emotions? What does he seem to do right, and how could he do better? Can you relate to his experiences? What is common or unique about them? In closing, what should we consider before undertaking the reading for next week?

- Book 11, p. 278-281 (lines 1-83) [Elpenor]
- Book 11, p. 284-286 (lines 150-225) [Anticleia/Mother]
- Book 5, p. 182-186 (lines 58-179) [Calypso]

WEEK 4 (Thursday February 6, 2020, 7-8:30pm, VFW Post 8195, Hollywood, FL)

****Higher Powers and Vices****

Discussion Questions: What higher powers and vices strengthen and threaten Odysseus? How do they work for and against him? How could Odysseus better manage the forces? Are there parallels in the modern world? In closing, what should we consider before undertaking the reading for next week?

- Book 10, p. 264-270 (lines 174-348) [Vices (Lust)]
- Book 13, p. 322-326 (lines 186-285) [Vices (Lies)]
- Book 22, p. 483-486 (lines 203-310) [Higher Powers (Goddess Athena)]
- Book 22, p. 489-492 (lines 361-479) [Vices (Resentment, violence, vengefulness)]

WEEK 5 (Thursday February 13, 2020, 7-8:30pm, VFW Post 8195, Hollywood, FL)

****Homecoming and Relationships****

Discussion Questions: How do Odysseus and his loved ones react to reuniting? What is most surprising or interesting about their interactions? How do his experiences parallel, and differ from, those of twentieth and twenty-first century former service members? In closing, what should we consider before gathering next week to plan our public presentation?

- Book 16, p. 374-376 (lines 167-226) [Telemachus]
- Book 23, p. 495-498 (lines 1-109) [Penelope]
- Book 24, p. 516-518 (lines 303-350) [Laertes]

WEEK 6 (Thursday February 20, 2020)

Wrap-Up and Public Program Planning

Discussion Question: How should we structure our public program?

