

World Literature I Unit Reading Journals – Short Answer

Unit 1: Ancient Greece -- Homer's *The Odyssey*

1. Who does Homer invoke in the beginning of *The Odyssey*?
2. How many years have Odysseus been away from Penelope and Telemachus?
3. How does Penelope stall for time against the suitors?
4. What is the name of the god who is against Odysseus?
5. Why is this god against Odysseus?
6. What is the name of the goddess who supports Odysseus?
7. According to Menelaus, what happened to his brother Agamemnon when we returned home from Troy?
8. What is the name of the god who tells Calypso to let Odysseus go?
9. Who is Alcinous?
10. What happens to those who eat the lotus flowers?
11. Circe transforms Odysseus' men into what?
12. What are the names of the two monsters that Odysseus' ship needs to sail between?
13. Who tells Telemachus to return to Ithaca?
14. Who first recognizes Odysseus in Ithaca?
15. What is the secret of Penelope and Odysseus' bed?
16. Who stops the cycle of blood revenge at the end of *The Odyssey*?

Unit II: The Middle Ages -- *Beowulf*

1. Hrothgar is king of what people?
2. Grendel attacks Heorot, Hrothgar's mead-hall, for how long?
3. What is the name of Beowulf's people?
4. Who is Queen Wealhtheow?
5. Is Beowulf armed or unarmed when he fights Grendel?
6. What does Grendel leave behind as he escapes Beowulf?
7. TRUE or FALSE: Grendel's mother attacks Heorot out of revenge.
8. Is Beowulf armed or unarmed when he fights Grendel's mother?

9. TRUE or FALSE: Hrunting, Unfurth's sword that Beowulf borrows, is useless against Grendel's mother.
10. What does Beowulf give to Hrothgar after he returns from the mere (boggy lake)?
11. Hygelac is related to Beowulf how?
12. How much later does the dragon slaying take place after Grendel's death?
13. Does Beowulf intend to fight the dragon alone or with his companions?
14. What does Wiglaf do that the other companions don't do?
15. TRUE or FALSE: Beowulf's people expect their land to be safe after his death.

Unit III: The Renaissance -- Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

1. Who is King Claudius in relation to Prince Hamlet?
2. Why is Hamlet upset with his mother, Queen Gertrude?
3. Is Hamlet a fully grown adult or still a young man, and how can we tell?
4. Who is Hamlet's best friend?
5. What was the name of Hamlet's father, the previous king?
6. What criminal act does Hamlet suspect King Claudius has done?
7. What does the ghost want Hamlet to do?
8. Is Hamlet quick about avenging his father or slow?
9. Who is Ophelia in relation to Hamlet, and has that relationship changed after the previous king's death?
10. Is Hamlet's madness real or fake, and how can we tell?
11. Is Ophelia's madness real or fake, and how can we tell?
12. What is the name of the play that the traveling actors perform before King Claudius and the rest of the court?
13. Why doesn't Hamlet kill Claudius while Claudius is "praying", and why is this ironic?
14. Why does Laertes want to kill Hamlet?
15. Was Ophelia's drowning suicide or an accident, and how can we tell?
16. Why does Hamlet finally kill Claudius at the fencing duel between himself and Laertes?
17. Who takes over the kingdom of Denmark since the entire royal family is dead?