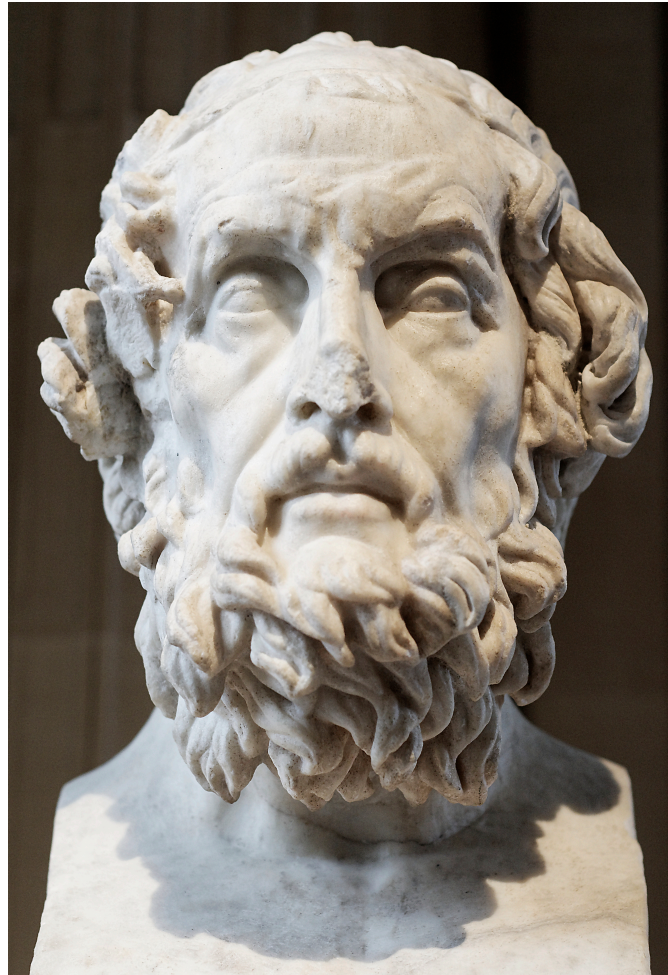


From Greece to Rome: Homer, Vergil and the Trojan War

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Homer (8th/7th cent. B.C.)



Idealized portrayal of Homer, 4th/3rd cent. B.C. (British Museum)

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/db/Homeros_Caetani_Louvre_Ma440_n2.jpg

The Story of the Trojan War (I)

- Wedding of Peleus and Thetis
- Eris and the apple of discord: τῇ καλλίστῃ
- The judgement of Paris (Hera, Athena, Aphrodite)
- Helena (the most beautiful woman in the world, and wife of Menelaos) is given to Paris → abduction to Troy
- Trojan War = Greek enterprise to bring Helena back to Sparta

The Story of the Trojan War (II)

- Siege of Troy: ten years
- Achilles (the greatest Greek hero) kills Hector (the greatest Trojan hero) (← *Homer's Iliad*)
- Achilles is killed (← Achilles' heel)
- Odysseus has the brilliant idea of taking Troy not by force, but by trickery → Trojan Horse
- Sack of Troy
- Greeks return home (← *Homer's Odyssey*)

The Judgement of Paris



Black-figure vase from Athens, c. 510 B.C.

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9d/Judgement_of_Paris_Staatliche_Antikensammlungen_1722.jpg

Paris and Helena



Wolfgang Petersen, *Troy* (2004)

Source: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/3d/42/bd/3d42bdf4d568dd8da5596628adcb5269.jpg>

Troy and Sparta



Source: <http://www.pages.drexel.edu/~kmh35/class/images/sparta-to-troy-map.jpg>

The City of Troy



Excavations at Troy around 1900

Source: <http://www.zeit.de/wissen/geschichte/2010-12/ausgrabung-schliemann/bitblt-820x462-0ffc7f7964edd7515b84ad3a4440e26ae9ceb93e/ausgrabung-schliemann-540x304.jpg>

The Trojan Horse



So-called “Mykonos Vase”, c. 670 B.C.

Source: http://res.cloudinary.com/dk-find-out/image/upload/q_80,w_1440/A-AKG132692_qccxn3.jpg

Homer's *Odyssey* (I)

- After the destruction of Troy: Odysseus and his crew set sail home (to the isle of Ithaca).
- On their way home, they encounter lots of adventures.
 - Odysseus enrages Poseidon by blinding his son Polyphemus → Poseidon swears revenge.
 - All of Odysseus' crew get gradually lost/killed. → The last survivors are killed in a seastorm sent by Zeus because they had eaten the holy cattle of the solar god Helios.

Homer's *Odyssey* (II)

- Odysseus reaches the isle of Ogygia as the sole survivor of Zeus' seastorm.
 - Odysseus is held captive by the nymph Calypso on Ogygia for 7 years.
 - Is released by command of Athena and Zeus.
- Odysseus at the court of the Phaeacians (isle of Scheria; king Alcinous)
- Odysseus reaches Ithaca → kills Penelope's suitors and reunites with Penelope.

Polyphemus



Proto-Attic amphora, Athens, c. 650 B.C.

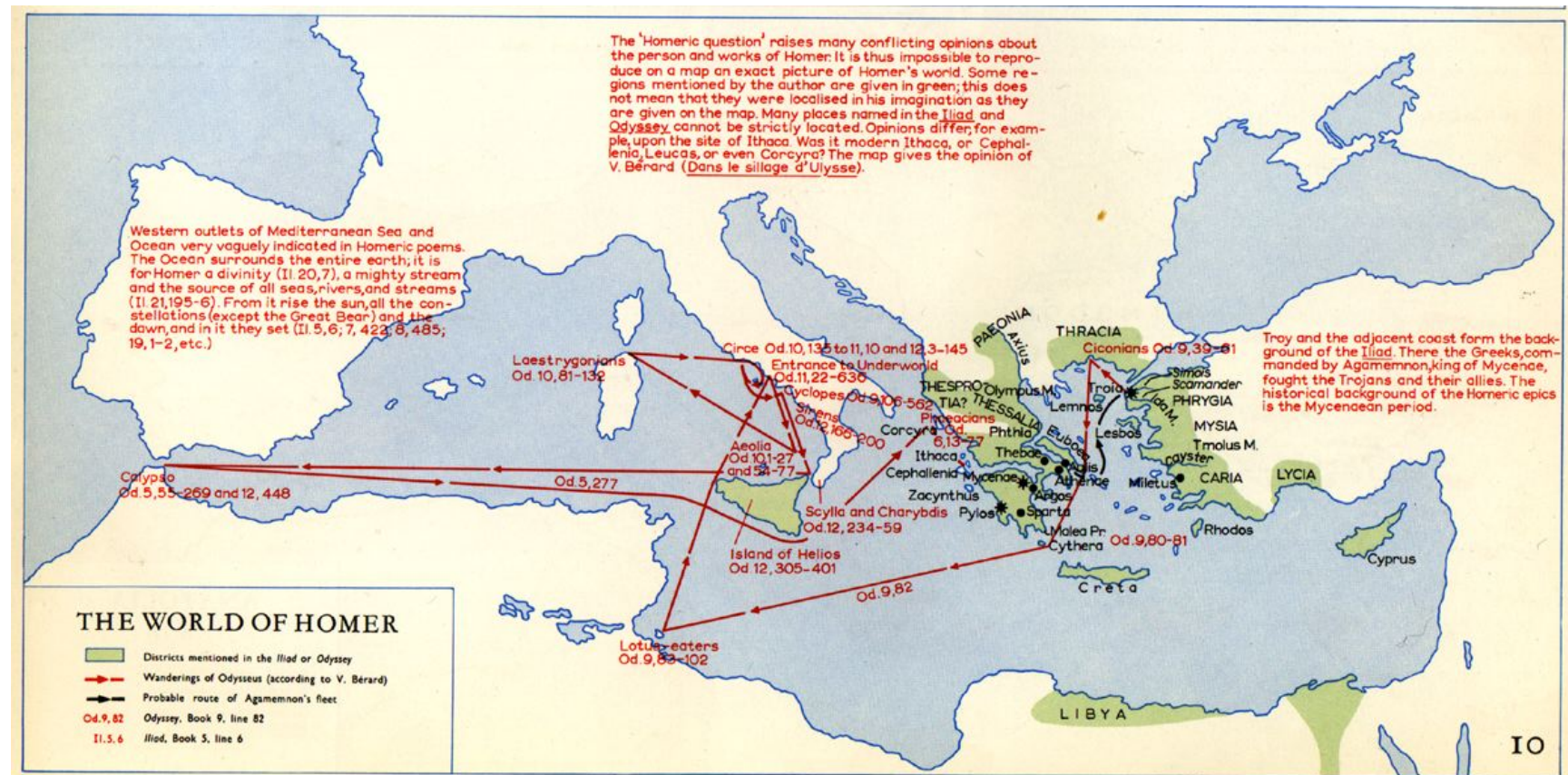
Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fe/Polyphemus_Eleusis_2630.jpg

The Route of Odysseus: Attempts at Reconstruction (I)



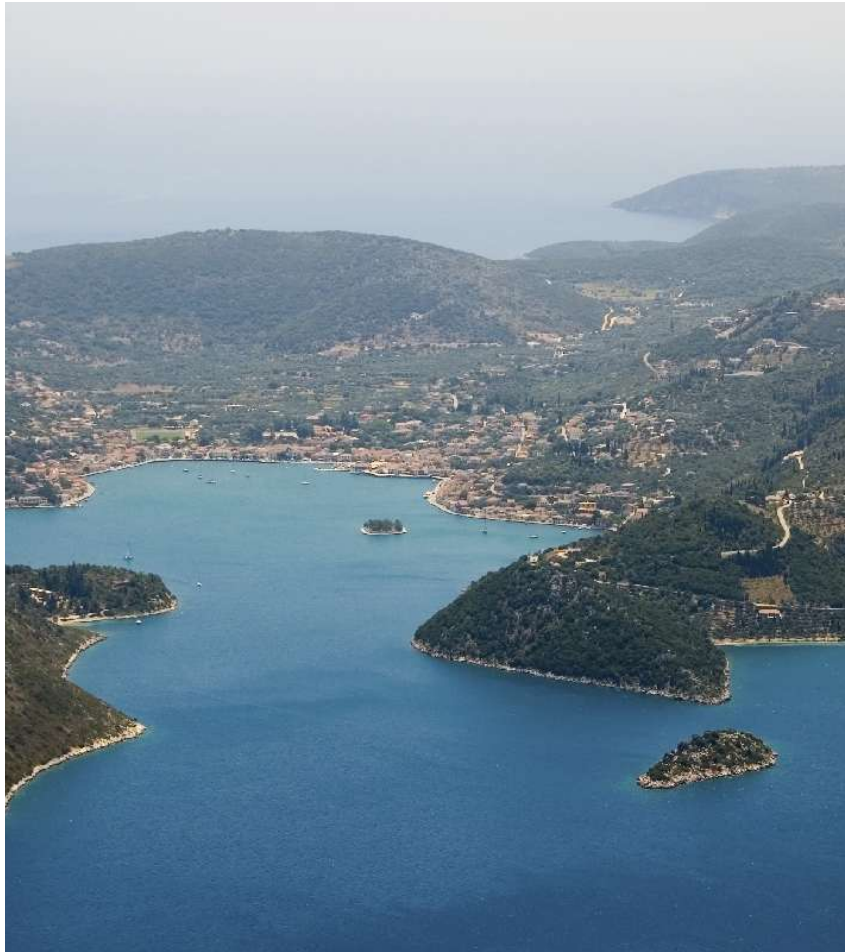
Source: <http://www.classics.upenn.edu/myth/content/homer/media/odysmall.jpg>

The Route of Odysseus: Attempts at Reconstruction (II)



Source: A.A.M. Van Der Heyden & H. H. Scullard, *Atlas of the Classical World*, New York 1959,
retrieved from <http://www.classics.upenn.edu/myth/content/homer/media/odybig.jpg>

The Isle of Ithaca



Sources: <http://griechenland-insider-urlaub.de/bilder/griechenland/241/241-Ithaka-45033047506585.jpg>
[http://www.esys.org/rev_info/Griechenland/Ithaka_Locationmap_\(wiki\)-hq.jpg](http://www.esys.org/rev_info/Griechenland/Ithaka_Locationmap_(wiki)-hq.jpg)

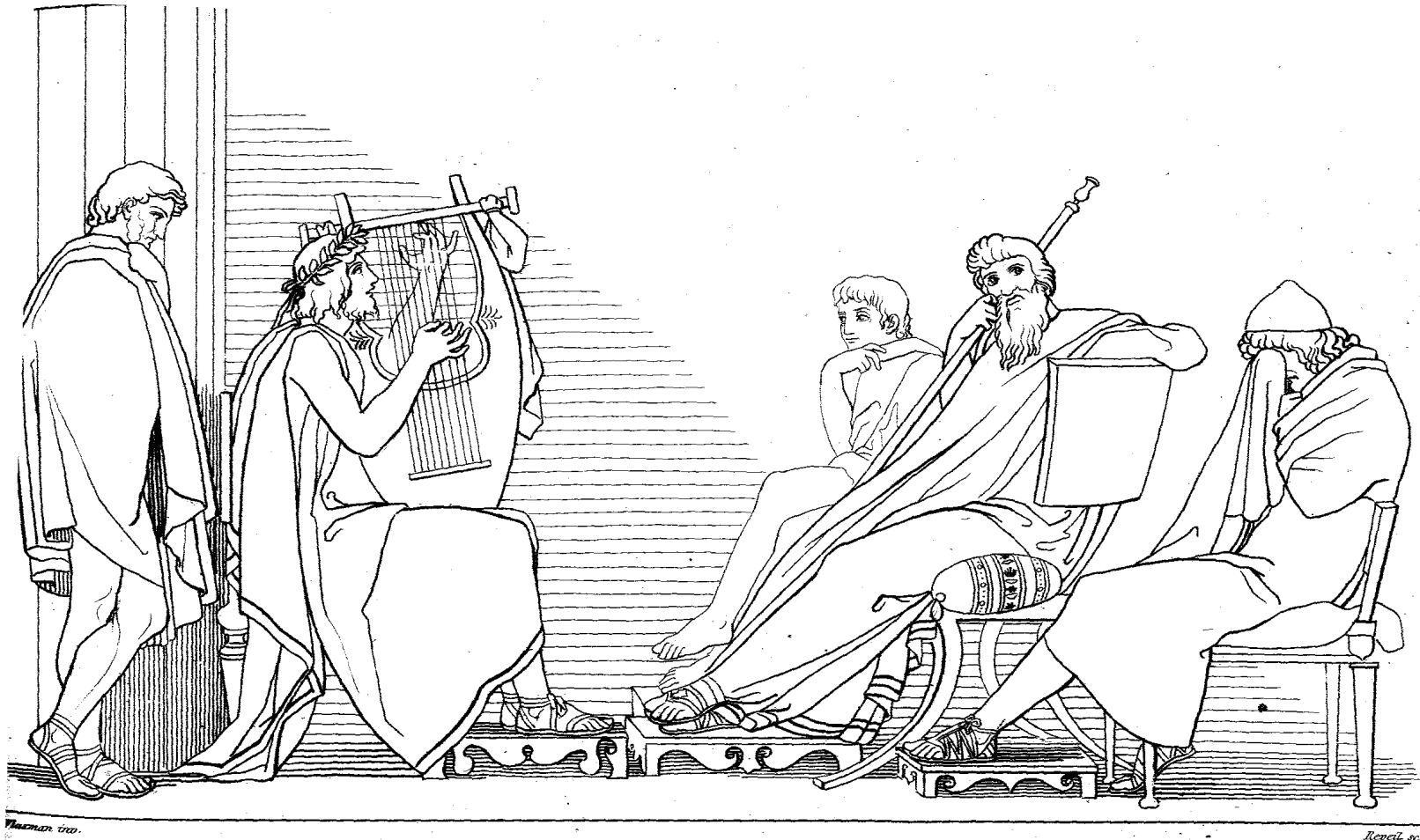
Reading Assignment (I)

- **Homer, *The Odyssey*: Book 8, Verses 482–556:**

Read the text and and discuss with your neighbour these questions:

- Why does Odysseus ask Demodocus to sing about the Trojan Horse? What is 'odd' about this request from the perspective of us as readers?
- Why does Odysseus cry?
- How is Alcinous' reaction to Odysseus' tears to be understood?

Demodocus, Alcinous, Odysseus



John Flaxman, Illustrations of the *Odyssey* (c. 1800)

Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cb/OdysseyDemodokos.png>

Vergil (70–19 B.C.)



Bust of Vergil, undated (Naples)

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f7/Publius_Vergilius_Maro1.jpg

The Romans and the Greeks (I)

- Livius Andronicus (c. 284 – c. 204 B.C.): Greek slave in Rome: translated the *Odyssey* into Latin (→ *Odusia*)
- Greece under the Roman Empire (“Roman Greece”: 146 B.C. – 395 A.D.)
 - 146 B.C.: all mainland Greece becomes Roman
 - 395 A.D.: partition of the Roman Empire

The Romans and the Greeks (II)

- Augustan poetry: poetry under the reign of Emperor Augustus (27 B.C. – 14 A.D.)
 - Main goal: the creation of Roman literary ‘classics’
 - Greek literature serves as a model, but is no longer regarded as superior
 - Main representatives:
 - Vergil
 - Horace
 - Ovid

Vergil's *Aeneid* (I)

- Common ground with Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*:
 - Same background story: the Trojan War
 - *Iliad* and *Odyssey* = the main literary models
 - Same starting point as the *Odyssey*: the destruction of Troy through the Greeks
 - Like the *Odyssey*, the *Aeneid* is concerned with something that happens *after* the Trojan War

Vergil's *Aeneid* (II)

- Main differences to Homer's *Odyssey*:
 - Aeneas (the hero of the *Aeneid*) ≠ a Greek, but = a Trojan!
 - Aeneas does not return home, but he goes elsewhere in order to settle in a new country (Italy)
 - Aeneas loses his first wife (Creusa) and marries again (Lavinia) in Italy
 - *Odyssey*: restoration of sth old
<--> *Aeneid*: establishment of sth new

The Route of Aeneas: Reconstruction



Source: <http://faculty.gvsu.edu/websterm/Aeneas.gif>

Reading Assignment (II)

- **Vergil, *The Aeneid*: Book 2, Verses 634–804:**

Read the text and and discuss with your neighbour these questions:

- What is it that makes Aeneas finally leave his house behind and flee from Troy? Why is this important with regard to Aeneas' journey that is to come?
- Think about the role of Aeneas' family during the flight from Troy: his father Anchises, his son Ascanius, his wife Creusa, his ancestors!

Aeneas, Anchises and the Penates



Sculpture by Filippo Parodi (1630–1702)

Source: http://museu.gulbenkian.pt/prjdir/gulbenkian/images/mediaRep/museu/colecao/escultura/Inv-544.255_147_701_546.jpg

The Roman Penates



Reconstruction of a typically Roman Penates shrine

Source: http://www.novaroma.org/religio_romana/Penates.jpg