

49. What child was adopted by rough miners? (Read *The Luck of Roaring Camp*. You'll probably want to read *Tennessee's Partner*, also, by Bret Harte.)
50. What American author wrote a well-known story of finding buried treasure by means of a cipher which explained a map? (Poe. Besides *The Gold Bug* you may want to read *The Fall of the House of Usher*.)

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ILLUSTRATING THE ILIAD AND THE ODYSSEY

An Eighth Grade Unit in Greek Literature

WHILE studying Greek literature, the class became interested in illustrations. Since they were unable to find any pictures of gods or goddesses at home, the teacher suggested ordering some from picture companies. A *Perry Pictures Company* catalog was on hand, so the class set to work selecting appropriate pictures to order. While this was in progress one child asked, "What are we going to do with our pictures?"—The class discussed this at length, finally deciding to make a book on Greek literature using the pictures as illustrations. How they did this work is set forth in the following outline.

I. *What the Children Did*

- A. They discussed the book to be made as to:
1. Size—pages, cover, and pictures.
 2. Contents—table of contents, list of illustrations, dedication, introduction, index.
 3. Materials—color and kind of paper, kind of cardboard, paint for cover design.
 4. Lettering—pages, cover.
- B. They examined illustrative material supplied by teacher and children such as: books, magazines, pictures, advertisements, old jewelry, and posters.

C. They assembled the material and made their book by:

1. Dividing the subject matter into main topics, one to be accepted by each pupil as his definite assignment.
2. Resolving into final working committees on drawing, printing, posting, sewing, binding.

II. *What the Children Learned*

A. From their work with *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* the children learned that:

1. *The Iliad* tells the story of the tenth year of the siege in the Trojan War; *The Odyssey* tells the story of the ten years' wanderings of Odysseus (Ulysses) on his way back home from the Trojan War.
2. Interesting information about gods and goddesses as shown in Table I.
3. Information about the main characters of the two stories as shown in Table II.
4. These stories (*The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*) were sung by Homer, then resung by others, and later compiled in book form.
5. The following are the most important things tradition supplies about Homer.
 - a. He was a poor, blind poet who earned his living by reciting these poems.
 - b. He played on a lyre and recited wonderful verses which told about the adventures of Greek heroes and their great deeds during the Trojan War.
 - c. "Fifty cities" claimed the distinction of being his birthplace and greatly honored him after his death.
6. The main characteristics of Homeric style are:
 - a. Frequent use of the simile—a figure of speech likening two different things by imaginative comparison. Example: "As when the wind from off a threshing

TABLE I. *Showing Important Facts About Greek Gods and Goddesses*

Name of God or Goddess	God or Goddess of	Chief Seats of Worship	Aid Given in Trojan War	Epithet
Jupiter or Zeus	Chief of Olympian Gods	Crete, Anxur in Latium.	Both sides	"Thunderer"
Minerva or Athene	Wisdom	Lake Tritonus in Africa.	Greeks	"Blue-eyed maid"
Juno or Hera	Marriage; also wife and sister of Zeus.	Argos, Carthage Lacinia.	Greeks	"Stag-eyed queen of Heaven."
Venus or Aphrodite	Love and beauty	Paphos and Idalium in Cyprus.	Trojans	"Laughter-loving queen."
Apollo or Phoebus	Light, oracles, music, medicine.	Delphi and Cumae in Campania.	Trojans	"God of the silver Bow."
Diana or Artemis	Moon and the chase.	Thracian forest	Greeks	"Archer Queen"
Neptune or Poseidon	Sea	Aegean Sea	Greeks	"Girdler of the land."
Mars or Ares	War	Thrace	Trojans	"Mail-clad god of war."
Vulcan or Hephaestus	Fire and architecture	Lipara, an island near Sicily.	Both sides	"The skilled artificer."
Mercury	Messenger	Cyllene, the highest mountain in the Peloponnesus		"Clear-sighted speedy comer."
Ceres or Demeter	Agriculture	Troy		
Vesta or Hestia	Fireside	Troy		
Aurora or Eos	Dawn		Greeks	"Rosy-fingered Dawn."
Iris	Rainbow; messenger			"Storm-swift Iris."

floor, where men are winnowing, blows the chaff away; when yellow Ceres with the breeze divides the corn and chaff which lies in whit'ning heaps: so thick the Greeks were whitened o'er with dust."

- b. Use of the epithet—an adjective or adjective phrase which aptly describes the noun it modifies. Example: "Stag-eyed Juno, queen of heaven."

III. *Skills and Abilities Selected for Emphasis*

A. Skills strengthened were:

1. Lettering neatly and with correct spacing (words twice as far apart as letters.)

2. Pasting neatly and in correct position on the page (pictures about one-third nearer top of page than bottom.)
 3. Spelling unusual words and proper names found in Greek literature.
 4. Drawing, through copying illustrations found in books.
- B. Abilities strengthened were:
1. Selection and organization of material from various sources for a definite type of book, e. g. subjects pertaining to ancient Greece.
 2. Selection and organization of material for one topic from various sources.
 3. Compilation of unorganized material into a table.

TABLE II. Showing Important Facts About Principal Characters in the Iliad and Odyssey

Name	Home	Interesting fact	Epithet
Agamemnon	Mycenae	He was leader of Greeks in Trojan war.	"Most mighty Agamemnon, king of men."
Ulysses	Ithaca	He was a Greek hero and main character of the Odyssey. He was driven at the will of the gods for ten years after the capture of Troy.	"Wisest of the Greeks."
Menelaus	Sparta	As king of Sparta and deserted husband of Helen, he led sixty ships to the siege of Troy.	"Heaven-descended Menelaus."
Paris	Mt. Ida	He was the brother of Hector. He visited Menelaus and eloped with his wife, Helen. This led to the siege of Troy.	"Paris, cause of all this war."
Helen	Sparta	She was the most beautiful woman of her age.	"Fair-haired Helen, queen of women."
Diomed	Greece	He was a brave Greek hero.	"Brave Diomed."
Ajaces	Cyprus Lacris	"'Tis yours, Ajaces, filled with courage high, to save the Greeks."	Ajax Telamon, the greater Lacrian Ajax, the lesser.
Patroclus	Pythia	He was the best friend of Achilles.	"Patroclus carborne chief."
Hector	Troy	He was the foremost Trojan hero.	"Hector of the glancing helm."
Achilles	Pythia	He was the strongest, bravest and swiftest of the Greeks.	"Swift-footed Achilles."
Nestor	Pylos	He was the oldest of the Greeks.	"Nestor, wise in council."
Nausicaä	Island of Phaeacia	She was kind to Achilles when he was stranded on her island.	"Fair-robed Nausicaä."
Penelope	Ithaca	She was the wife of Ulysses, and was true to him during his twenty years' absence.	"Heedful Penelope, daughter of Icarus."
Telemachus	Ithaca	He was the only son of Ulysses—a baby when his father went to war.	"Discreet Telemachus."
Cyclope	Sicily	Any one of a race of one-eyed giants.	"Cyclops, devourer of men."

- IV. Attitudes and Appreciations Fostered
- A keener realization of the responsibility of each member of the group to every other member as they work together.
 - An appreciation of the classic literature of another country.
 - An appreciation of pictures as valuable aids in studying a piece of literature.
 - A realization of the difference in religions and social ideals then and now.

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