

**Isle of Wight Academy**  
**2025-26 Required Summer Reading**  
**8th Grade**

The goals of the summer reading assignments for IWA are to improve literacy and to promote lifelong reading. As students grow and mature, they need to continually practice their reading skills. The lists are based on recommendations from classroom teachers, librarians, and students. Each reading selection has an assignment designed to enhance the reading, thought processes and message of the selection. All writing assignments are due on the first day of class.

*The Adventures of Ulysses* by Bernard Evslin

Available on:

- 1) Amazon,
- 2) BetterWorldBooks.com, or
- 3) Free download (suitable for printing) at [https://archive.org/details/the\\_adventures\\_of\\_ulysses](https://archive.org/details/the_adventures_of_ulysses)

The leader of the Greek forces returning from Troy encounters the Cyclops, the beautiful sorceress Circe and more, as he tries to ward off the anger of the gods.

**Assignment:** Use the Tic-Tac-Toe-type chart on the next page to choose three projects to complete. The student must complete three assignments in adjoining squares: horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Shaded assignments are to be completed in a 300-word essay. INCLUDE WORD COUNT in each essay.

The response must be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font and the header in the upper-left corner should be formatted as follows:

**Name**

**Teacher's Name**

**Class/Subject**

**Due Date**

\*\* A Note to Parents: Want to read along with your student? Here are discussion questions designed to prompt conversation: <https://shorturl.at/uFMZO>

<p>What is the role of women in <i>The Adventures of Ulysses</i>? Focusing especially on Penelope, Calypso, or Anticleia, discuss how women are portrayed in this epic.</p>	<p>Compare and contrast Telemachus's journey with that of Odysseus. How does the younger man's experience enable him to grow as a character?</p>	<p>What is the role of family in <i>The Adventures of Ulysses</i>? What values characterize the relationship between fathers and sons? You may wish to compare and contrast some of the father and son pairs in the epic (Ulysses and Telemachus, etc.) How does the author portray the idea of continuity between generations?</p>
<p>The Telemachus subplot is a traditional coming-of-age story. What standard elements does this subplot share with other coming-of-age stories? Why and in what way does the prince change?</p>	<p>Design a map of the places mentioned in the novel. Be sure to include all relevant geographic features: oceans, landmasses, etc.</p>	<p>Consider two of the following as symbols - Ulysses' great bow, the shroud that Penelope weaves for Laertes, the island of Ithaca, or the sea itself—and explain their significance in the story.</p>
<p>How does the theme of vengeance work in the epic? Approach it from the points of view of Telemachus and Poseidon, as well as Ulysses.</p>	<p>A major theme in <i>The Adventures of Ulysses</i> is reciprocity: people getting what they deserve. Explain how this theme affects the main characters: Ulysses, Penelope, Antinous, and Telemachus.</p>	<p>As an epic hero, Ulysses possesses many exemplary qualities. List and explain how they benefit him. What are his less admirable characteristics and how do these qualities cause him harm?</p>