**Device Déjà vu**

Homer uses the same epithets (character nicknames), similes, metaphors, and diction over and over again, a small selection of which appear below:

“Odysseus, son of Laertes”

“fair-haired Dawn/divine Dawn; Dawn of the golden throne; young Dawn showed again her rosy fingers”

“eaters of bread”

“feasting on unlimited meat and sweet wine”

“Circe the guileful; Circe of the lovely hair; fair haired Circe”

“Resourceful Odysseus”

“cheated of his proper portion”

“grieving still at heart”

“gray sea”

“proud heart”

“the inward heart; the heart within me”

“great-hearted”

“Poseidon Shaker of the Earth”

“Odysseus, sacker of cities”

“pitiless”

“So I spoke to them”

“eating our hearts out”

“winged words”

“there came no advantage to them for all their sorrowing”

“echo/echoes”

“the proud heart in me was persuaded”

“eager companions; wretched companions; dear companions”

“land of your fathers”

“spirit within me”

“godlike”

“black”

“white”

“Sweet red wine; black wine”

Even worse, sometimes Homer employs what is known as a **Homeric (epic) simile**, or an **extended metaphor**, simply meaning a simile or a metaphor that goes on and on for multiple lines.

p. 147 lines 376-390 Preparing the weapon (simile)

p. 147 lines 391-394 Blinding Polyphemus (simile)

p. 157 lines 210-219 Circe’s magic (metaphor)

p. 162 lines 388-399 Greeks, better than ever (simile)

p. 162 lines 406-421 Reunion with companions (simile)

In order to actually help you figure out what to annotate, and then how to actually analyze what you’ve found, we’re going to be dissecting some of Homer’s recurring offenders.

1. Select **one** of the recurring phrases: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Looking at Books IX, X, and/or XI, find every time your phrase appears. Highlight or circle it; clearly differentiate it from your other annotations.
3. Having looked at this phrase a number of times, **why** do you think Homer uses it over and over again? What is its **significance/meaning**? Does it reveal character traits? Is it ironic? Symbolic? Does it serve as a point of reference or create a contrast?
4. Now go back to one of the places where your phrase appears. **How and why** is the phrase used in that **specific circumstance**? How is it different from the other times that phrase appears? Select and analyze at least three different times your phrase appears:
   1. Page/Line number:

Circumstance/Significance:

* 1. Page/Line number:

Circumstance/Significance:

* 1. Page/Line number:

Circumstance/Significance:

If you feel like you’re really up for a challenge, try analyzing the purpose behind an extended metaphor or epic simile. Look at each separate section of the metaphor or simile, and figure out what its purpose is in the larger comparison, and in the epic as a whole.