CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Heroides

Ovid · *Showerman's translation, 1914 · Grant Showerman (Loeb, 1914)*

This missive your Penelope sends to you, O Ulysses, slow of return that you are – yet write nothing back to me; yourself come! So the first letter begins, in Grant Showerman's 1914 prose. Troy, to be sure, is fallen; but scarcely were Priam and all Troy worth the price to me. All twenty-one letters as hosted; footnotes and facing Latin omitted. Not the Metamorphoses (already mapped). For grades 10–12. Tact; no prurience. Quote Showerman. The heading prints Ulysseus; keep the file's spellings.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as Showerman's English of the Heroides, beginning with Penelope's letter that asks Ulysses not to write back but to come, rather than as the Metamorphoses?

"This missive your Penelope sends to you, O Ulysses, slow of return that you are – yet write nothing"

I. Penelope to Ulysseus

Ovid's Heroides, in Grant Showerman's 1914 Loeb prose, complete as hosted (footnotes and facing Latin omitted). The first letter begins: This missive your Penelope sends to you, O Ulysses, slow of return that you are – yet write nothing back to me; yourself come! Troy is fallen, but scarcely were Priam and all Troy worth the price to me. Not the Metamorphoses. For grades 10–12. Tact; no prurience. Quote Showerman. Keep the file's spellings. One map cannot teach twenty-one letters.

KEY CHARACTERS

Penelope
Who sends this first missive, and asks Ulysses not to write back, but to come

Ulysses
Named in the letter as slow of return; the heading in this file also prints Ulysseus

Grant Showerman
The 1914 translator; quote his prose

HOW TO BEGIN THE HEROIDES

> *"This missive your Penelope sends to you, O Ulysses, slow of return that you are – yet write nothing"*
> I. Penelope to Ulysseus

> *"yet write nothing back to me; yourself come! Troy"*
> I. Penelope to Ulysseus

Grades 11–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

This Missive Your Penelope Sends

I. PENELOPE TO ULYSSEUS

This missive your Penelope sends to you, O Ulysses, slow of return that you are. The first letter is already a sending, and a naming of delay.

- Keep "missive" and "slow of return that you are."
- 10–12. Tact.
- The first letter, not all twenty-one.
- Quote Showerman.

> *"This missive your Penelope sends to you, O Ulysses, slow of return that you are – yet write nothing"*
> I. Penelope to Ulysseus

02

Yourself Come

I. PENELOPE TO ULYSSEUS

Yet write nothing back to me; yourself come! She does not ask first for a letter in return.

- Keep "write nothing back to me; yourself come."
- 10–12.
- A request, not a spectacle.
- Quote this wording.

> *"yet write nothing back to me; yourself come! Troy"*
> I. Penelope to Ulysseus

03

Troy, to Be Sure, Is Fallen

I. PENELOPE TO ULYSSEUS

Troy, to be sure, is fallen, hated of the daughters of Greece. Victory is already in the past tense.

- Keep "to be sure, is fallen."
- 10–12.
- Penelope's letter, not the Iliad.
- Quote Showerman.

> *"Troy, to be sure, is fallen, hated of the daughters of Greece; but scarcely were"*
> I. Penelope to Ulysseus

04

Scarcely Worth the Price to Me

I. PENELOPE TO ULYSSEUS

But scarcely were Priam and all Troy worth the price to me. The cost is measured from a home, not from a wall only.

- Keep "scarcely" and "worth the price to me."
- 10–12. Tact, no prurience.
- One letter among twenty-one.
- Quote this wording.

> *"but scarcely were Priam and all Troy worth the price to me. O would"*
> I. Penelope to Ulysseus

05

Showerman, 1914, Not the Metamorphoses

THE EDITION

Grant Showerman, Loeb, 1914. All twenty-one letters as hosted; footnotes and facing Latin omitted. Not the Metamorphoses (already mapped). For grades 10–12. Tact; no prurience. Quote Showerman. The heading prints Ulysseus; keep the file's spellings in a quotation. One map cannot teach twenty-one letters.

- Name Showerman, 1914, and all twenty-one letters as hosted.
- 10–12. Tact, no prurience.
- Penelope first, not the Metamorphoses.
- Quote this English.

> *"This missive your Penelope sends to you, O Ulysses, slow of return that you are – yet write nothing"*
> I. Penelope to Ulysseus

A missive, sent from home

A request not for a letter, but a coming

Troy already fallen

A price, measured from home

Twenty-one letters, not the Metamorphoses

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. The first letter begins: "This missive your Penelope sends to you, O Ulysses, slow of return that you are – yet write nothing back to me; yourself come!"
2. Grant Showerman, Loeb, 1914: all twenty-one letters as hosted; footnotes and facing Latin omitted. Not the Metamorphoses. Name the file you are in.
3. "Troy, to be sure, is fallen… but scarcely were Priam and all Troy worth the price to me."
4. For grades 10–12. Tact; no prurience. Quote Showerman. Keep the file's spellings. One map cannot teach twenty-one letters.

Quotations are verbatim from the Grant Showerman (Loeb, 1914), Theoi Classical Texts Library transcription of Grant Showerman's translation, Ovid: Heroides and Amores (Loeb Classical Library 41, 1914), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/ovid-heroides/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.