**P 249 Ancient Greece**

**2. a) What are Homer’s most famous works?**

Homer’s most famous works are the *Iliad* which tells the story of the last years of the Trojan war and focuses on Achilles, and the *Odyssey* which describes the challenges that Odysseus faced on his 10 year journey home from the war.

**b) How are fables different from myths?**

Fables attempt to teach the reader lessons about life, morality, or advise us how to live, whereas myths attempt to explain how the world works. Myths often use gods and heroes and fables often use animals as protagonists.

**3. a) In what areas have Greek myths influenced our culture?**

Greek myths have influenced our language. Many words and expressions we have are based on Greek words/names (odyssey, titanic, “sour grapes”, “Midas touch”. Many places and solar bodies are named after characters from Greek mythology (or given Roman names for the Greek deities). Myths and their characters are often the subject of our art work and TV / movies.

**b) Why do you think mythological references are popular with sports teams and businesses today?**

The mythological characters were gods in their respective fields. This not only assumes perfection but also desirable character traits of power and intelligence.

**p. 251 Homer’ Iliad and Odyssey**

**2. The Greeks used myths to explain the natural world. How does the *Odyssey* passage illustrate this?**

The passage from the *Odyssey* is used to describe a treacherous strait in the Mediterranean Sea, where a jagged cliff and dangerous whirlpools made navigation very difficult. In the *Odyssey* these natural features would be described as a sea monster.