



# LITERARY LOOKING



## Timeless classics

*The Sirens* by Edward Burne-Jones depicts an ancient Greek myth, but it was painted in 1891 (that's recent in the grand scheme of history). What do you think the moral of the story is, and how would it have been pertinent during the time this painting was made? How might that lesson be relevant to society today?



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## Color your world

Artists often use color to symbolize different emotions or character traits in their subjects. Authors frequently do the same with the language they choose (ex. seeing the world through rose colored glasses). Below, write down examples of colorful language and the meaning. Note the logic of using such phrases and whether the meanings are universal.

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*Thetis Dipping Achilles into the River Styx* tells the beginnings of the saga of Achilles. There is a main focal point near the front of the image, but there is also a great deal of foreshadowing going on in the background. In the space below explain which pictorial elements are hinting at impending events.

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### Epic Poetry and Art:

An epic poem recounts the story of a heroic individual's exploits in a way that aggrandizes the beliefs of their culture. The *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* by Homer are two works that narrate stories of the Trojan War. These texts were central to the Greek cultural ideals of unity among city-states and perseverance through trials. Two works in the Ringling collection, *Circe Entertaining Odysseus at a Banquet* and *Hermes Appears to Calypso* illustrate themes from these works. Why do you think such stories would be relevant to subsequent, non-Greek societies?

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Write your own outline below for an epic poem that utilizes heroes or heroines of today. What does your story say about our cultural ideals?



Transformation is an important element in literature. In the Pannini painting *Circe Entertaining Odysseus at a Banquet* we see that some of the men in the picture have been physically transformed into animals. What other types of transformations can you think of that characters often undergo?

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A painting often tells a story, but usually creates a snapshot of one fleeting moment in the broader narrative. Choose a painting from the Museum and identify what point the artist has chosen to represent (beginning, climax, etc.). Using the space below create a storyboard that finishes the narrative.

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