1. Discuss the changing position and representation of women in European literary history, taking into account both the position of female writers and that of female characters in literary works.
   * Homer 🡪 Penelope & Telemachus ; Speaking is for men
   * Ovid 🡪 Rape of Europa/Loss of (female) Humanity
   * Boccaccio 🡪 Preface (“New Discourse to help women” ; “women have less

endurance than men” For women/ Alatiel (loss of Autonomy) /

Griselda (Retelling by Petrarch; Griselda as Job)

* + Navarre 🡪 Prominence of Female Characters and storyteller commentary
  + Woolf 🡪 History of women as characters versus authors. Navarre as educated

Aristocracy

* Gubar 🡪 *Mad Women in the Attic* and Changing of the canon

1. One of the ways to study the history of European literature is to focus on the development of the hero (or anti-hero) through the ages. Discuss different types of (anti-)heroes with reference to at least 3 works.
   * Homer 🡪 Iliad vs. Odyssey.

(Achilles) Heroic Death and Entry into Myth.

(Odysseus) Restoration of generational lineage (Return to family,

community, political life)

* Shelley 🡪 Frankenstein as Anti-Hero

Vitalist Debate (John Abernethy vs. William Lawrence)

Creature as spirit of Revolution 🡪 Development without External

guidance

Political implications: can we be free from traditional forms of

authority?

* Tokarczuk 🡪 Heroes as nomads

Unable to settle down, obscure instinct rather than with a purpose

Not the story of obstacles to be overcome to get to a goal, but rather of

perpetual tribulations, numerous encounters with hazard, and a constant

longing for being elsewhere

Eryk 🡪 Unnamed but seems to be in Scandinavia who was “stranded \

there” on a whaling ship. From one of the “communist flat lands.”

Nomadic for 10 years until ending up on “island” as a ferry captain

between two smaller islands. Cannot live in the same routine every day

and felt isolated and lonely. Rides out to open sea. Will be condemned

as “immigrant” for his actions though he is not welcomed by people

“Traveler who simply answers the chaotic call of their of unease.”

Labeled Hero

1. Discuss the ways in which the apparently univocal relationship between author and literary work is complicated in European literature (e.g. through complexities of textual genesis, metafictional devices, or autofiction) Refer to at least three texts from the studied corpus.
   * Ovid 🡪 “New Form” Mixes Epic, Greek Metamorphosis Poetry, Tragedy,

Pastoral, etc.

Textual Transformation.

Transformation as essence of Universal History (There is the stability and Order in Virgil)

Ceres and Proserpina (Most complex narrative in Classical Literature)

Destabilized time (narrative time vs. narrated time)

* + Navarre 🡪 Frame Narrative

Reference to Boccaccio, King Francis I and Madame Marguerite

Autobiography, Authorship, and “Reality”

Mixes biographical elements with fictions (Story 4, attempted rape of

princess)

Blassim 🡪 God 99 (Refugee and Autofiction writing)

Complicated empathetic reading: critical engagement of the reader

Breaks the autobiographical pact by unstable, complicated form of

subjectivity

Fragmented, combines fictional and autobiographical elements

Hassan Owl

Not simply a “mindless swallowing of yet another sad story”

1. The figure of the outsider – the social outcast, the marginal, the runaway, the renegade, the migrant, or the explorer – is at the core of so many iconic European narratives. Comment on the ways in which literature unsettles dominant perspectives by means of this figure of the outsider, using at least three examples from our corpus.
   * Blassim 🡪 *God 99* (Refugee and Autofiction writing)

Complicated empathetic reading: critical engagement of the reader

Breaks the autobiographical pact by unstable, complicated form of

subjectivity

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Political implications: can we be free from traditional forms of

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“stranded there” on a whaling ship. From one of the “communist flat lands.” Nomadic for 10 years until ending up on “island” as a ferry captain between two smaller islands. Cannot live in the same routine every day and felt isolated and lonely. Rides out to open sea. Will be condemned as “immigrant” for his actions though he is not welcomed by people. “Traveler who simply answers the chaotic call of their of unease.” Labeled Hero