

# Homer's *The Odyssey* - Review Guide

*Complete the following notes while watching The Odyssey by Homer. Pay close attention; it will help to have read ahead in the notes to know what comes next. If you try to fill it out after the fact, it is likely this will be found to be more difficult; the full movie can be found on our website if a second look is necessary.*

## Exposition

The story opens with Odysseus running through the woods in order to find his wife, \_\_\_\_\_, who is \_\_\_\_\_ and about to introduce \_\_\_\_\_, their son. They live on the island of \_\_\_\_\_ where Odysseus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the land. Their belief system is in line with what is now called \_\_\_\_\_ because they believe in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. At this time, Greece is at war with \_\_\_\_\_, and it is this war that will lead to Odysseus' epic adventure, his odyssey. Many ships approach, and on the very day Odysseus' son is \_\_\_\_\_, King \_\_\_\_\_ and King \_\_\_\_\_ have come to tell Odysseus he will now \_\_\_\_\_ to fight in the war. Odysseus tells Penelope that she is to \_\_\_\_\_ if he is not back from the war by the time Telemachus has his first \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Trojan War

Odysseus fights alongside the great \_\_\_\_\_ who eventually kills the Trojan army's great leader named \_\_\_\_\_ before he eventually dies also. The Greeks and Trojans fight for \_\_\_\_\_ years until \_\_\_\_\_ comes up with a plan for the \_\_\_\_\_. The Greek's plan is nearly ruined when a soothsayer named \_\_\_\_\_ comes down the beach, but a giant \_\_\_\_\_ sent by the \_\_\_\_\_, God of the \_\_\_\_\_. The Greeks enter the impenetrable walls of Troy and ultimately win the war. Odysseus stands along the rocks overlooking the fierce \_\_\_\_\_ where he claims that he alone conquered Troy and that he no longer needs the \_\_\_\_\_; he can do anything. He is spoken to by \_\_\_\_\_ who wonders why Odysseus \_\_\_\_\_ his need for him. He is angry with Odysseus because he refuses to give \_\_\_\_\_ and admit he cannot do things alone; as a result of Odysseus' actions, he is condemned to the sea for \_\_\_\_\_. It could be said that Odysseus' actions are the result of an over-inflated \_\_\_\_\_. Meanwhile, back on Ithaca, Telemachus has now reached the age of \_\_\_\_\_ where he is watched over by \_\_\_\_\_ while together they \_\_\_\_\_ sheep. Anticlea, Penelope's \_\_\_\_\_, believes Penelope keeps Telemachus from reaching \_\_\_\_\_ and that she [Penelope] must be prepared to learn of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lotus Eaters and the Cyclops – see book notes for this section, pages 1112-1123

## Aeolus – God of the Wind

Odysseus arrives at another \_\_\_\_\_ where he meets Aeolus who already knows Odysseus, and he also knows that Odysseus \_\_\_\_\_ go home because of \_\_\_\_\_. Aeolus believes his cousin is a \_\_\_\_\_ and arrogant and selfish. He wants to help Odysseus so he fills a bag full of

\_\_\_\_\_ to be sure that Odysseus reaches Ithaca in \_\_\_\_\_ days. Aeolus helps Odysseus because he is the first \_\_\_\_\_ to use his \_\_\_\_\_ and understands that there is always something to \_\_\_\_\_. However, there is one condition; Odysseus is not to \_\_\_\_\_ the sack. The men on the ship are convinced the bag contains \_\_\_\_\_, and within sight of Ithaca, they are tempted by the unknown contents, and Odysseus is now \_\_\_\_\_, so the men look inside the bag. Meanwhile, back on Ithaca, Penelope and Anticlea sense Odysseus.

### **The Island of Circe, the Sorceress**

The men land on the far side of the world where \_\_\_\_\_ is in short supply, and Odysseus does not want to help the men who \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ takes off to find game on the island to have food; Odysseus sends \_\_\_\_\_ and a group of men with him. Suddenly, the men begin chasing a \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_ comes running out of the woods onto the beach screaming “No!”, and informs Odysseus the \_\_\_\_\_ is actually \_\_\_\_\_. He tells a story of how each man was turned into an \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus goes in search of his men with warning to the men on the beach that if he is not back by \_\_\_\_\_, they are to \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus, while climbing the steep rock wall, meets \_\_\_\_\_, the winged messenger. Odysseus is instructed to eat a grass, Moly, normally \_\_\_\_\_, to ward off the sorceress’ magic and remain a \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus must take her to \_\_\_\_\_ before she will return his men. While the men are enjoying Circe’s company, back on Ithaca Anticlea \_\_\_\_\_ against Penelope’s wishes. Odysseus remains with her and learns he has been there for \_\_\_\_\_ years even though it seems like it has only been \_\_\_\_\_ days. He threatens to kill Circe, and she tells him in order to reach Ithaca he must visit the \_\_\_\_\_, Hades, and see the blind prophet, \_\_\_\_\_, where he will sacrifice a \_\_\_\_\_. Back on Ithaca, Telemachus is now \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Suitors, led by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have moved into Odysseus’ kingdom in hopes of one day \_\_\_\_\_ Penelope.

### **The Underworld**

Odysseus tells his men to sail for Ithaca if he does not return, and he takes the ram across the River \_\_\_\_\_ to find Tiresias who tells him that he only focuses on reaching \_\_\_\_\_ and not the \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, Odysseus has his eye on the \_\_\_\_\_ and not the \_\_\_\_\_ by which to get there. Until Odysseus heeds Tiresias’ words, he will never understand \_\_\_\_\_. Tiresias tells Odysseus to sail toward the brightest star in the constellation of \_\_\_\_\_ where he will find the Strait of Scylla and Charybdis; on one side there is a monster with \_\_\_\_\_ heads and another with a gaping \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone. On the way out, Odysseus speaks to \_\_\_\_\_, his mother, who explains she took her own life out of \_\_\_\_\_; she could wait no longer for him. She asks for \_\_\_\_\_ and explains men are trying to \_\_\_\_\_ his kingdom. Back at Ithaca, the suitors are still trying to win Penelope’s hand in marriage and are beginning to wear out their \_\_\_\_\_. Penelope explains to

Telemachus that she will \_\_\_\_\_ another when he has his first \_\_\_\_\_. Penelope explains to the men that she will \_\_\_\_\_ a shroud (tapestry/blanket), and that when it is finished, she will \_\_\_\_\_ one of the suitors if Odysseus has not returned.

### **Scylla and Charybdis**

After passing Scylla and losing \_\_\_\_\_ men and a \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ headed monster, \_\_\_\_\_ of the remaining men are lost to Charybdis, the monstrous mouth in the ocean. At the same time back at Ithaca, the men are still living like animals, and Penelope is delaying the finishing of the shroud by \_\_\_\_\_. Euryclea, Penelope's servant, speaks against the suitors, but Melantho enjoys the company of \_\_\_\_\_, especially that of \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus remains alone and afloat on a piece of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Calypso**

Calypso inhabits the island of \_\_\_\_\_ where she lives with the absence of any \_\_\_\_\_. None of her \_\_\_\_\_ have ever seen one. Calypso seduces Odysseus and wants him for her \_\_\_\_\_. Eventually Odysseus sees a \_\_\_\_\_ and attempts to \_\_\_\_\_, but he is retrieved by Calypso's \_\_\_\_\_. Calypso is unhappy he wants to leave her and keeps him for \_\_\_\_\_ more years. In this time his desire to reach home \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ tells Calypso she must \_\_\_\_\_ Odysseus, or her island will \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus builds a \_\_\_\_\_ to reach home, and Calypso \_\_\_\_\_ lets him leave.

### **Back at Ithaca**

Meanwhile, \_\_\_\_\_ sails for \_\_\_\_\_ to meet with King \_\_\_\_\_ in hopes of finding \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus is lost at sea questioning the motivation of \_\_\_\_\_. Poseidon's goal is not to kill Odysseus but to \_\_\_\_\_ him. He wants Odysseus to realize that man is \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus washes up at the land of the Phaeacians where he receives food and eventually a \_\_\_\_\_ before heading for home.

### **Odysseus Returns Home**

Odysseus returns home to Ithaca where he first encounters Eumaeus, the man who \_\_\_\_\_ and used to \_\_\_\_\_ Telemachus when he was just a boy. Telemachus and Odysseus meet, but Odysseus is not ready to return yet. He wants to know if Penelope has been \_\_\_\_\_ all of these years. \_\_\_\_\_ arrives and changes Odysseus into a \_\_\_\_\_ to allow him to see the current state of his home. Telemachus is challenged by \_\_\_\_\_, but this fight is

stopped by \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus, though disguised, is recognized by \_\_\_\_\_ because of a \_\_\_\_\_ on his leg.

A challenge will occur for Penelope's hand. The person who can \_\_\_\_\_ and shoot an arrow through \_\_\_\_\_ rings wins. None of them men are successful, except \_\_\_\_\_. Odysseus tells Telemachus that now is the time for his \_\_\_\_\_, and he quickly kills Antinous with a \_\_\_\_\_. This killing of so many men in such a tight, inescapable space is best described in a modern idiom as shooting \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Character List based on the film**

Achilles-greek warrior with Odysseus

Aeolus-god of wind

Agamemnon and Menelaus-Greek Kings requesting help at Troy

Anticlea-Odysseus' mother

Anticlus – one of Odysseus' men

Athena-Odysseus' protector (goddess)

Calypso-goddess on the island of Ogygia

Charybdis—sea monster creating tidal pool at end of the Strait of Scylla

Circe-sorceress

Elpenor – one of Odysseus' men

Eumaeus-sheep herder-watches over Telemachus

Eurycleia-house keeper to Odysseus and Penelope

Eurylochus – one of Odysseus' men

Eurymachus and Antinous-suitors of Penelope (seeking Odysseus' riches, and, and wife)

Hector-Trojan warrior (nemesis to Achilles)

Hermes-winged messenger (of the gods)

Ithaca-land of Odysseus

King Alcinous--rules the Phaeacians

Laertes--suitor the other suitors laugh at

Laocoon – soothsayer killed by serpent

Melantho-servant to Penelope having an affair with Eurymachus

Odysseus-King of Ithaca

Penelope-wife to Odysseus/Queen of Ithaca

Perimedes – one of Odysseus' men

Phaacia--land Odysseus washes up on after Poseidon's wrath

Polites-one of Odysseus' men (pig)

Polyphemus-cyclops-son of Poseidon

Poseidon-god of the sea

Scylla-6 headed monster

Telemachus-son to Odysseus and Penelope

Tiresias-blind prophet in the underworld

