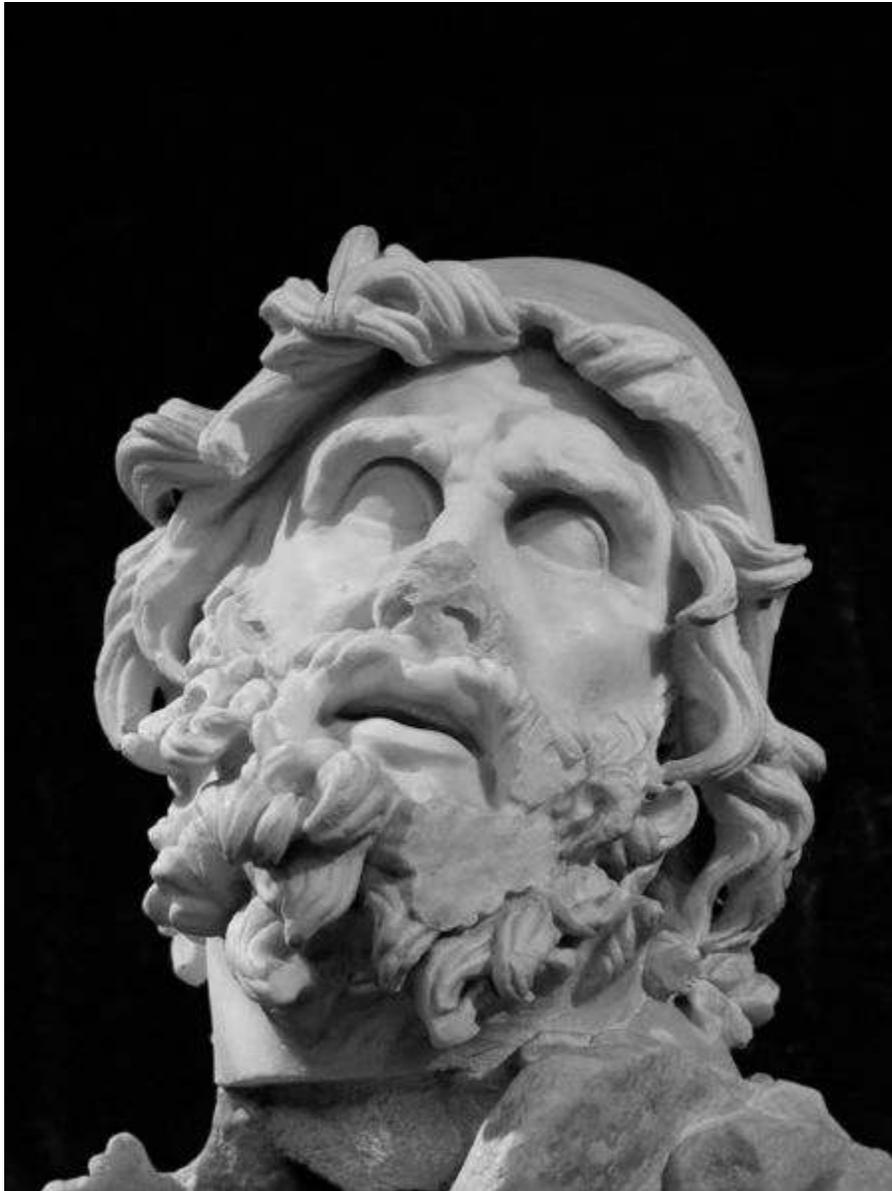


The Odyssey

by Homer



Head of Odysseus from a sculptural group representing Odysseus killing Polyphemus. Marble, Greek artwork of the 2nd century BC. From the villa of Tiberius at Sperlonga. Stored in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Sperlonga. (Public Domain)

Odyssey Study Packet

Goal: To read and study the epic tale of Odysseus; to understand the epic poem and how it relates to our lives.

Purpose: To reflect on the Odyssey and guide you through your reading. You are responsible for the information assigned. All notes and reading may be on the test.

You will be allowed to use this packet and any notes you take on the test.

****This unit is worth 250 points.****

Reading:

- PowerPoint Introduction by Nugent (take notes)
- “In the beginning...” (provided in packet)
- “The Muses, the Graces, and the Fates” (provided in packet)
- “Hades” (provide in packet)
- from the *Odyssey*” by Homer translated by Robert Fitzgerald pg. 890-950
 - Part 1 pg. 890-924
 - Part 2 pg. 928-949

Assignments:

- Packet of Notes from PowerPoint (20 pts)
- Introduction to Greek Mythology and the Trojan War Quiz (20 pts)
- Worksheet on Hades (10 pts)
- Homeric Similes (20 pts)
- Part 1 and Part 2 Reading Guide Questions (40 pts)
- Part 1 and 2 Comic strips (20 pts)
- Properties of a Hero Chart (10 pts)
- Timeline of Events (5)
- Personal Journey Timeline (25 pts)
- Unit test (80 pts)

Vocabulary:

Part I

1. Formidable
2. Mustered
3. Ravage
4. Profusion
5. Sage
6. Adversary
7. Stealth

8. Rancor
9. Maelstrom
10. Abominably
11. Tumult
12. Insidious

Part 2

13. Incredulity

14. Adversities
15. Restitution
16. Glowered
17. Lavished
18. Aloof
19. Pliant
20. Tremulous

THE ODYSSEY

POWER POINT PRESENTATION NOTES

SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION



WHO WAS HOMER?



WHAT IS MYTHOLOGY?

 MYTHOS =

 LOGOS =

 MYTHS ARE:

MYTH IN *THE ODYSSEY*

 GODS

 GODS CAN HAVE AN _____

 ATHENA

 POSEIDON

WHAT IS AN EPIC?



 THE HERO

 THE SETTING

 THE ACTION

 SUPERNATURAL FORCES

EARLY EPIC POEMS



THE TROJAN WAR

1. THE ODYSSEY IS TOLD _____, _____, _____, WHICH MEANS...
2. HOMER WROTE _____ BEFORE WRITING _____.
3. THE TROJAN WAR WAS FOUGHT BETWEEN WHAT TWO GROUPS?
4. WHO IS THE WOMAN THAT LEGEND CREDITS WITH STARTING THE WAR?
5. DESCRIBE THE SCENARIO THAT LED PRINCE PARIS TO KIDNAP HELEN.
6. THE NAMES OF THE BROTHERS WHO BESIEGED TROY FOR 10 LONG YEARS:

7. HOW DID THE ACHAEANS FINALLY WIN THE TROJAN WAR?

8. WHO IS ODYSSEUS?

9. HOW LONG IS ODYSSEUS GONE FROM ITHACA?

10. WHAT ISSUES DOES ODYSSEUS HAVE TO CONTEND WITH TO RETURN HOME?

11. WHAT DOES ODYSSEUS HAVE TO CONTEND WITH ONCE HE GETS HOME?

12. WHO IS HELPING ODYSSEUS?

THEMES OF THE ODYSSEY

In the Beginning...

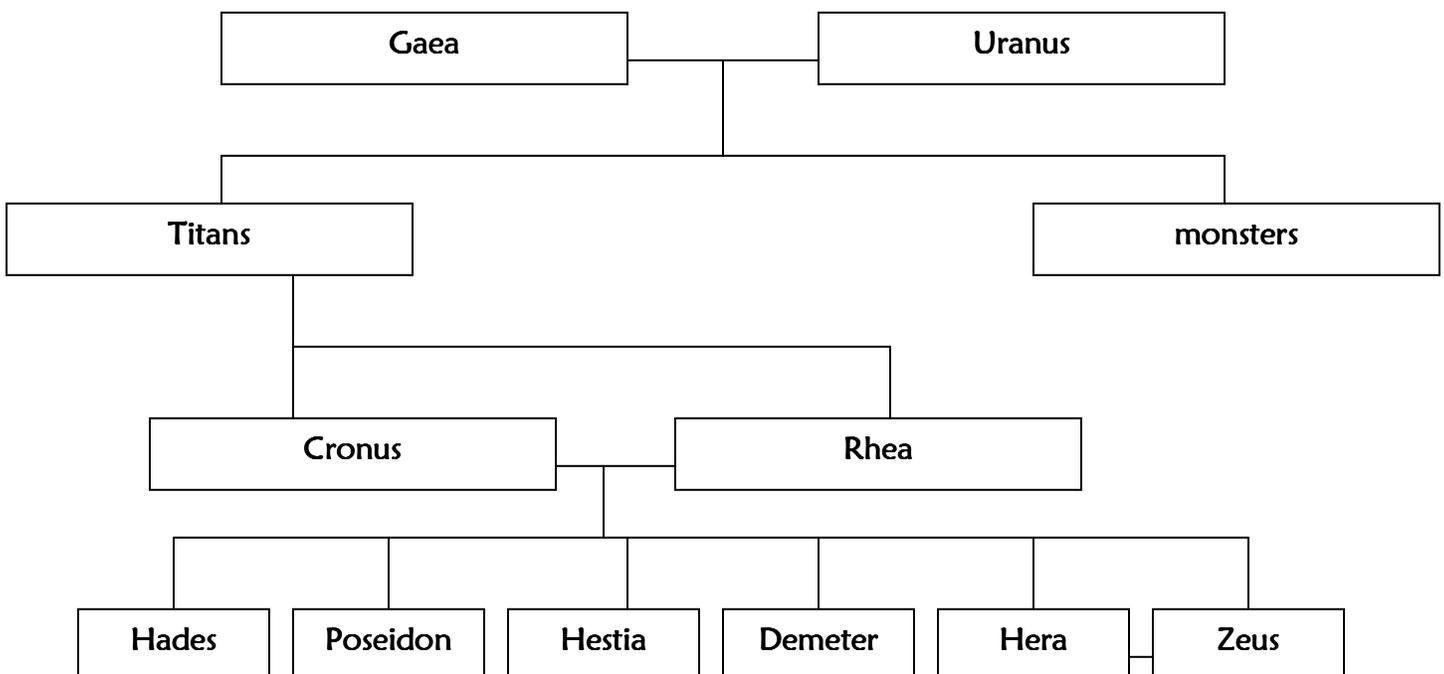
In the beginning, all was nothingness. Some say the nothingness was noisy chaos, and others suggest that all was silent. Although no one could say how or when, the nothingness became light, and day was followed by night. Then came love. With love, Mother Earth (Gaea) and Father Heaven (Uranus) came into being. Because of their love, they had many children. They had two kinds of children: Titan children and monster children. The Titan children were enormous, strong, and beautiful. The monster children were ugly and frightening.

Uranus disliked his monster children and locked them underground in the darkest part of the earth. However, Gaea was heartbroken and asked her youngest son, Cronus, who was one of the Titans, to rescue them. He agreed. To thank him for his help, Mother Earth gave her son Cronus and his sister Rhea, who was also a Titan, rule of heaven and earth.

Cronus and Rhea married each other and had six children. Each time Rhea presented Cronus with a child, however, he swallowed it. Rhea was horrified. When her sixth child was born, she wrapped a rock in a blanket instead of the baby and presented it to Cronus. He swallowed the rock, believing it to be the baby. Rhea then sent her sixth child, Zeus, to the island of Crete to be raised. Once Zeus had grown up, he and Rhea fought against Cronus to make him vomit the five swallowed children, now fully grown.

Zeus divided the world among himself, his brothers (Hades and Poseidon), and his sisters (Hestia, Demeter, and Hera). Thus began the final generation of rule by the Olympians.

Olympian Family Tree



THE PANTHEON

MAJOR GREEK GODS

GREEK NAME	NAME IN GREEK	PERSONALITY	TITLE OR DUTY	SYMBOL
ZEUS	Ζευς	DISLIKES LIARS OR PEOPLE WHO BREAK PROMISES	SUPREME RULER, SKY, RAIN	
HERA	Ηερα		MARRIAGE – CARES FOR MARRIED WOMEN	
ATHENA	Αθηνα			
POSEIDON	Ποσειδον		SEA	TRIDENT THAT CAN SHAKE THE WORLD
HADES	Ηαδες	DOES NOT LIKE TO LET PEOPLE OUT; HAS NO PITY FOR OTHERS		
DEMETER	Δεμετερ	KIND, GENTLE, NURTURING		
ARTEMIS	Αρτεμισ		LADY OF WILD THINGS, HUNTSMAN OF GODS	
APOLLO	Απολλο			GOLDEN LYRE, SILVER BOW, LAUREL, CROW, DOLPHIN, HAS A CHARIOT
HERMES	Ηερμεσ			WINGED SANDLES, WINGED HAT, MAGIC WAND
HEPHAESTUS	Ηεπηαεστυσ			VOLCANO
APHRODITE	Απηροδιτε	CAN MAKE ANYONE LOVE HER		
ARES	Αρεσ			VULTURE AND DOG
HESTIA	Ηεστια	NO DISTINCT PERSONALITY TRAITS		

The Muses, the Graces, and the Fates



The Muses

In ancient Greece, the Muses (mousai), nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne (memory) were said to give inspiration to poets and artists. They are: Calliope (epic poetry); Clio (history); Erato (love poetry and mimicry); Euterpe (music); Melpomene (tragedy); Polyhymnia (hymns, sacred poetry, mime); Terpsichore (dancing); Thalia (comedy); and Urania (astronomy). They are closely associated with Apollo and Dionysus. Apollo and Dionysus were brothers and sons of Zeus. Dionysus

invented the lyre and gave it to Apollo who loved playing it. Apollo was the god of music and is often shown with the Muses. Dionysus enjoyed good times, music, and theatre.

Mortals inspired by Muses include Homer (poet), Socrates (philosopher), and Aristophanes (playwright). Vase painters and sculptors decorated pieces with the Muses as a central theme. It is believed that there were originally three muses, but the number increased to nine. The Romans gave the Muses names and attributes. The word "music" has its origin in the word "muse."

The Muses continued to inspire painters, like the Dutch master, Vermeer, the German painter Hans Rottenhammer, and Simon Vouet, a French artist in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

American poet James G. Percival wrote "An Ode to Music" in the early 1800s. The Muses inspired waltzes and marches in the 1800s: Julius Bernstein's "Nine Muse Waltz"(1879). The 20th Century composer, Igor Stravinsky, who was fascinated by the ancient Greeks, wrote *Apollon Musagete*. Choreographer George Balanchine visualized the music and created movement for the god Apollo and the Muses Terpsichore, Polyhymna, and Calliope to create the ballet, *Apollo*. In 1928, this ballet made George Balanchine famous and it remains in dance repertoires throughout the world.

Function in literature

The muses are typically invoked at or near the beginning of an epic poem or classical Greek hymn. They have served as aids to an author of prose, too, sometimes represented as the true speaker, for whom an author is only a mouthpiece. Originally, the invocation of the Muse was an indication that the speaker was working inside the poetic tradition, according to the established formulas.

Six Classic Examples

[Homer](#), in Book I of [The Odyssey](#):

"Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns
driven time and again off course, once he had plundered
the hallowed heights of Troy." ([Robert Fagles](#) translation, 1996)

[Virgil](#), in Book I of the [Aeneid](#):

O Muse! the causes and the crimes relate;
What goddess was provok'd, and whence her hate;
For what offense the Queen of Heav'n began
To persecute so brave, so just a man; [...]
([John Dryden](#) translation, 1697)

[Catullus](#), in Carmen I:

"And so, have them for yourself, whatever kind of book it is,
and whatever sort, oh patron Muse
let it last for more than one generation, eternally."
(Student translation, 2007)

[Dante Alighieri](#), in Canto II of [The Inferno](#):

O Muses, O high genius, aid me now!
O memory that engraved the things I saw,
Here shall your worth be manifest to all! (Anthony Esolen translation,
2002)

[John Milton](#), opening of Book 1 of [Paradise Lost](#):

Of Man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste
Brought death into the World, and all our woe,
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat,
Sing, Heavenly Muse, [...]

[William Shakespeare](#), Act 1, Prologue of [Henry V](#):

Chorus: O for a Muse of fire, that would ascend
The brightest heaven of invention,
A kingdom for a stage, princes to act
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene!

[Geoffrey Chaucer](#), in Book II of [Troilus and Criseyde](#):

O lady myn, that called art Cleo,
Thow be my speed fro this forth, and my Muse,
To ryme wel this book til I haue do;
Me nedeth here noon othere art to vse.
ffor-whi to eury louere I me excuse
That of no sentement I this endite,
But out of Latyn in my tonge it write.



[Gustave Moreau](#), *Hesiod and the Muse* (1891).
[Musée d'Orsay](#), Paris

"Muse." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 23 Dec 2008. 6 Jan 2009 <<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Muse&oldid=259790588>>.

Muses, Graces, and Fates Information Chart

Muses (Mousa): Daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne (Memory); goddesses of arts.

Name	Meaning of Name	Domain	Symbols
Calliope	The Fair Voiced	Epic Poetry	Writing Tablet
Clio	The Proclaimer	History	Scroll
Erato	The Lovely	Lyric Poetry, Mimicry	Lyre
Euterpe	The Giver of Pleasure	Music	Flute
Melpomene	The Songstress	Tragedy	Tragic Mask
Polyhymnia	She of Many Hymns	Sacred Poetry, Mime	Pensive Look
Terpsichore	The Whirler	Dancing, Choral Singing	Dance with Lyre
Thalia	The Flourishing	Comedy	Comic Mask
Urania	The Heavenly	Astronomy	Celestial Globe

Graces (Charities); Daughters of Zeus and Eurynome (a Titan's child); goddess of who bestowed beauty and charm.

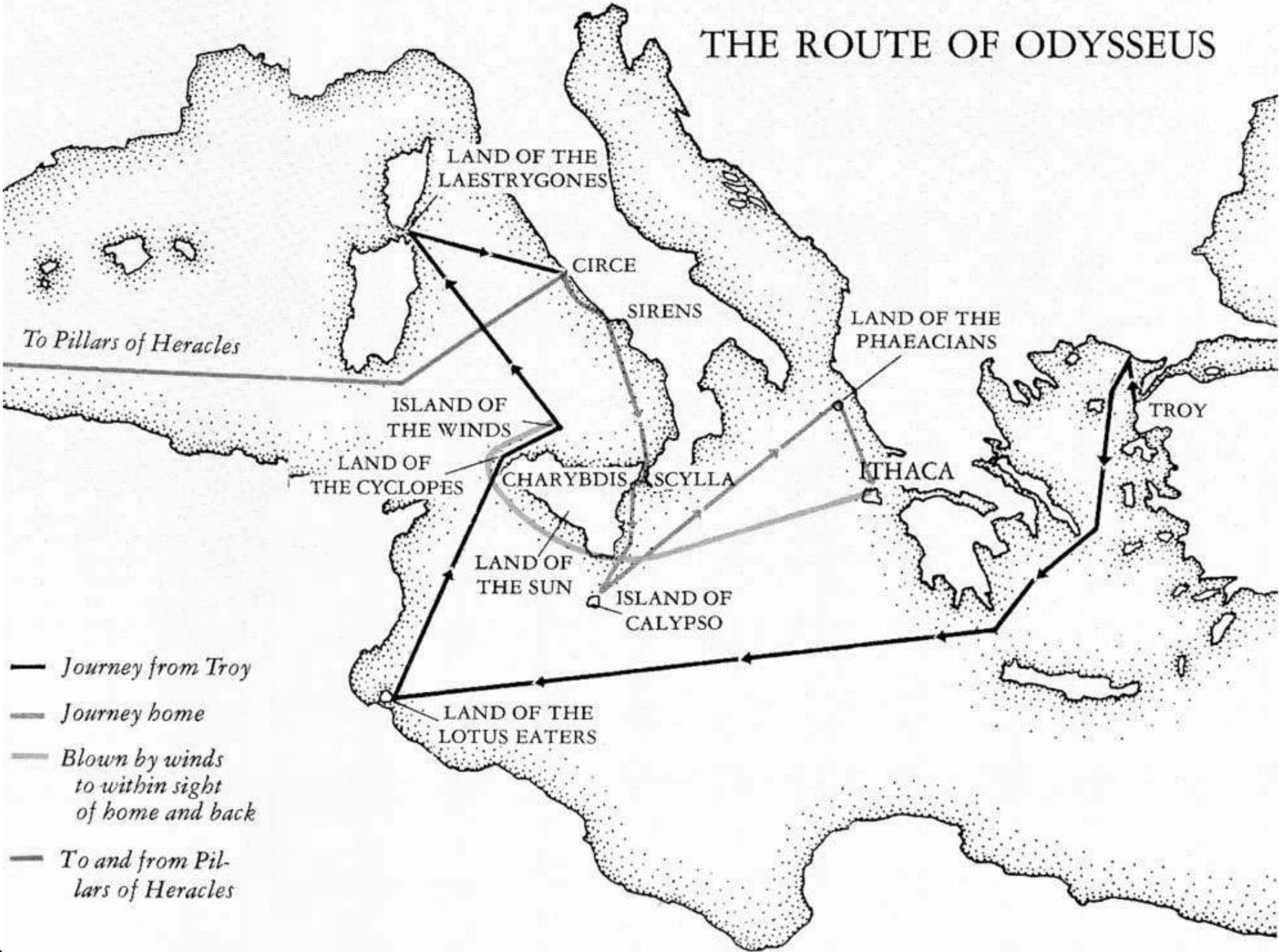
Name	Meaning of Name
Aglaia	Splendor or Radiance
Euphrosyne	Joy, Mirth, Festivity
Thalia	Good Cheer, Rejoicing, Flowering

Fates (Moirai): Daughters of Zeus and Themis (Night); goddess who wove the threads of life for each mortal being.

Name	Meaning of Name	Specially	Seen As
Clotho	Spinner and Twister	Spun the thread	Young women
Lachesis	The Lot Caster	Determined the course of a person's life	Middle aged
Atropos	The Unyielding One	Cut the thread to end a person's life	Old had

Reformatted and modified by Stephanie Nugent for use in English 9

THE ROUTE OF ODYSSEUS



Hades

The Rivers:

- Oceanus is the greatest and outermost River of Hades, which winds about the earth and the sea with nine rings.
- Styx (river of Hate), daughter of Oceanus, branches off Oceanus and is said to corral the souls in the Underworld.
 - Styx was the first to come to Olympus and support the gods in their war against the Titans. For this reason Zeus caused oaths to be sworn by the water of Styx.
- Acheron (river of Woe) leads souls to the ferryman Charon who takes two obols (coins) for his fair
- Pyriphlegethon (river of Fire)
- Cocytus (river of Wailing)

Places:

- Asphodel Fields is where souls dwell living the flavorless existence of a shadow or phantom. This is not a place of punishment, but there is no pleasure and the mind is confused and oblivious.
- The path to the right leads under the Palace of Hades to Elysian Fields. Here souls deal in a happy place, which has a sun and stars of its own. The souls here are, like those in Asphodel Fields, phantoms. Some in Elysian Fields are said to be reincarnated.
- The path to the left leads to Tartarus, the place of punishment in Hades. Pure darkness envelops all of Tartarus, and around its walls flows the Pyriphlegethon (river of Fire). Erinye Tisiphone (fury), with her bloody robe, and sleepless day and night, guards the entrance. Rhadamathys rules in Tartarus.

Arrival to Hades:

- When men and women die, Hermes (messenger to the gods) leads their souls to the Underworld, past the Gates of the Sun and the Land of Dreams, until they reach the Asphodel Fields.
- Charon, the ferryman, leads the souls across the river where they enter through the Gates of Hades into the Asphodel Fields.
- The souls continue on to the Plain of Judgment where they are sent to either Elysian Fields or Tartarus.

Judges:

- Souls receive judgment in the Plain of Judgment at a divided road, one leading to Elysian Fields and the other to Tartarus.
- The souls are judged by Aeacus, who keeps the keys of Hades and judges those who come from Europe, and Rhadamanthys the Asians. Minos has the final decision.

Creatures:

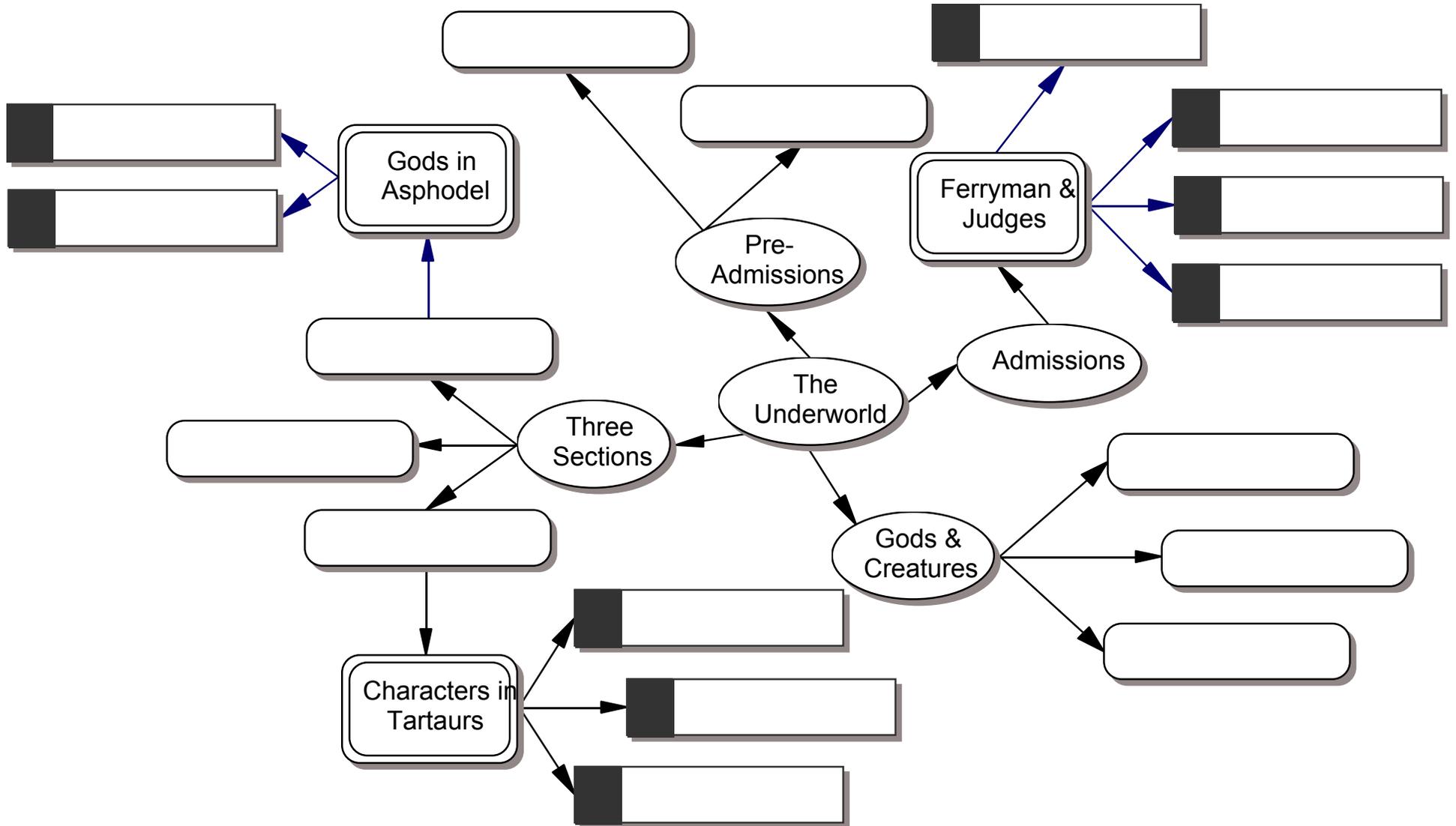
- Among the many creatures that deal before the gates of Hades, Grief, Anxiety, Diseases, Old Age, War, the Furies and Cerberus.
 - The Furies are detectors and avengers of crime and wickedness, avenging spirits, goddesses of vengeance, ready to stab fear into the hearts of mortals.
 - **Alecto** is said to be a maker of grief, a spirit who revels in war and quarrels. She was believed to be able to set brothers of one mind at one another's throats, or to torment a home with hatred.
 - **Megaera**
 - **Tisiphone** guards the entrance to Tartarus
 - Cerberus is the three headed dog that guards the entrance to Hades

Notes taken from:

Parada, Carlos. "Underworld & Afterlife." *Greek Mythology Link*. 2005. GML. 27 February 2005.
<<http://homepage.mac.com/cparada/GML/Underworld.html>>.

Hades

Directions: Using the Notes on Hades found in the packet, fill in the chart below.



Characters and Settings in *The Odyssey*

Directions: Write a brief (a few words) description of the characters and places that Odysseus encounters on his journey

Characters (Monsters, Mortals, Immortals)	Places	Ithacan Characters	The Gods
Aeolus	Aeaea	Antinous	Apollo
Alcinous	Island of the Laestrygonians	Argos	Athena
Calypso	Ithaca	Eumaeus	Cronus
Charybdis	Land of the Dead	Eurycleia	Helios
Cicones	Mount Olympus	Penelope	Hermes
Circe	Scheria	Philoeteus	Poseidon
Eurylochus	Thrinakia	Telemachus	Zeus
Lotus Eaters			
Polyphemus			
Scylla			
Sirens			
Teiresias			

The Odyssey Reading Guide

Tell the Story

1. Who is speaking in this opening scene?
2. What is a muse?
3. What happened in Troy?
4. Where is Odysseus, the "contender," trying to go?
5. Which god is plotting against Odysseus?

PART ONE: THE WANDERINGS

Calypso, the Sweet Nymph

6. How long did the Trojan War last?
7. How many years has Odysseus spent trying to return home?
8. Who is Calypso and what is her relationship to Odysseus?
9. Who is narrating the story?
10. Who is Hermes and what is his mission?
11. Of whom is Calypso seemingly jealous?
12. How does Odysseus regard his wife Penelope?
13. How does Calypso assist Odysseus on his journey home?

"I am Laertes' son...."

14. What tragedy strikes Odysseus at sea?
15. How is Odysseus received on the island of Scheria, home of King Alcinous?
16. Describe Ithaca.
17. From his self introduction, how do you think Odysseus views himself?
18. What line signals Odysseus' flashback to the past, where he begins telling the story of his adventures?
19. Summarize what happened at Odysseus first stop, Ismaros, land of the Cicones, on his journey home.

The Lotus Eaters

20. What danger did Odysseus and his men encounter when they landed on the Lotus Eater's island?
21. What did these people eat?
22. How did Odysseus solve the problem?

The Cyclops

23. Describe the cyclops Polyphemos.
24. What was the cyclops response when Odysseus told him of their ship wreck?
25. What plan did Odysseus contrive to divert Polyphemos?
26. What is ironic about the use of the name "Nohbody" by Odysseus?
27. After blinding the cyclops, how do Odysseus and his men escape the cave?

28. How does Polyphemos hope to avenge his injury from Odysseus?
29. How heroic are Odysseus' acts in this episode? In what ways does his help or endanger his men?
30. What customs of Greek society are observed in this story?

The Witch Circe

31. What assistance does King Aeolus' give Odysseus and why isn't it successful?
32. Summarize what happens on the island of the Laistrygones.
33. Why were men drawn to Circe?
34. Into what did Circe begin turning Odysseus' crew?
35. Why did Circe's plan fail on Odysseus?

The Land of the Dead

36. Why must Odysseus journey to Hades, the land of the dead?
37. How does Odysseus summon the spirit of Tiresias?
38. What advice does Tiresias give Odysseus regarding the island of Thrinakia?
39. If Odysseus doesn't follow Tiresias advice at Thrinakia, what does the spirit foretell?

The Sirens; Scylla and Charbydis

40. What advice does Circe give Odysseus when he returns from the underworld?
41. Describe the Sirens. What danger do they pose?

42. How did Odysseus keep himself and his men safe when going past the Sirens?
43. Describe Scylla and Charybdis.
44. Which of the two, Scylla or Charbydis, was the lesser of two evils? Why?

The Cattle of the Sun God

45. Who owns the cattle on the island of Thrinakia?
46. Of what consequence does Odysseus warn his men?
47. When and why did Odysseus' men decide to kill the cattle?
48. What threat did Helios make in response to the death of his cattle?
49. Who punished Odysseus' men? How?
50. Who survives the punishment?

The Odyssey: Part 1: The Wanderings Comic Strip

Section: Calypso, the Sweet Nymph	Section: Calypso, the Sweet Nymph	Section: Calypso, the Sweet Nymph	Section: "I am Laertes' son..."	Section: "I am Laertes' son..."
Summary:				

Section: The Lotus Eaters	Section: The Lotus Eaters	Section: The Cyclops	Section: The Cyclops	Section: The Cyclops
Summary:				

The Odyssey: Part 1: The Wanderings Comic Strip

Section: The Cyclops	Section: The Cyclops	Section: The Cyclops	Section: The Enchantress Circe	Section: The Enchantress Circe
Summary:				

Section: The Enchantress Circe	Section: The Land of the Dead			
Summary:				

The Odyssey: Part 1: The Wanderings Comic Strip

| Section: The Sirens; Scylla and Charybdis |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Summary: | | | | |

| Section: The Cattle of the Sun God |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| Summary: | | | | |

PART TWO: COMING HOME

51. Who helps Odysseus return to Ithaca after twenty years?
52. Once in Ithaca, whom does Odysseus visit and how is he disguised?
53. In Odysseus' absence, where has his son Telemachus journeyed? Why?
54. What news does Athena share with Telemachus?

The Meeting of Father and Son

55. When Telemachus returns to Ithaca, who does he visit first? Why?
56. What important Greek value does Telemachus' and Eumaeus' treatment of the unknown beggar reveal?
57. How does Athena transform Odysseus just before he reveals his identity to Telemachus?

The Beggar and the Faithful Dog

58. Why is it ironic that Odysseus should return to Ithaca in beggar's rags?
59. What is Argos' condition when Odysseus sees him? In telling us how Odysseus's dog is kept, what is Homer also telling us about conditions in Ithaca?
60. What tale does the "beggar" tell Penelope? How does he describe Odysseus, and why do you think he adds these details?
61. How is Penelope's interview with the beggar ironic?
62. Who recognized Odysseus, despite his rags, when he returns to his kingdom? By what hidden sign did she recognize him?

63. What do we learn about the character of Penelope in her interview with the beggar?

64. Why do you think Odysseus continues to keep his identity hidden from his wife?

The Test of the Great Bow

65. In setting up the test of the bow for the suitors, how is Penelope really suggesting she is looking for Odysseus?

66. What does Penelope promise the winner of the contest?

67. Just before Odysseus steps forward to try the bow, he reveals his identity to two other people. Who are they, and why does he reveal himself to them?

68. As the epic reaches its climax, two signs are sent from Olympus to indicate the gods' approval of Odysseus. What are they?

Death at the Palace

69. List at least five images/examples of figurative language that help you picture some of the most tense or most horrifying moments in the battle?

70. Is Odysseus' revenge on the suitors and maids excessive? Defend your answer.

The Odyssey: Part 2: Coming Home Comic Strip

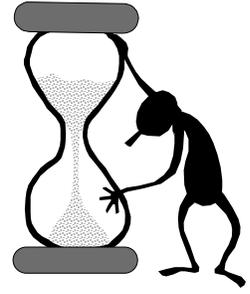
Section: The Meeting of Father and Son	Section: The Meeting of Father and Son	Section: The Beggar and the Faithful Dog	Section: The Beggar and the Faithful Dog	Section: The Test of the Great Bow
Summary:				

Section: The Test of the Great Bow	Section: The Test of the Great Bow	Section: Death At the Palace	Section: Odysseus and Penelope	Section: Odysseus and Penelope
Summary:				

Directions: Using the characteristics of a hero's journey below, find examples from *The Odyssey*.

Properties of a Hero		
Hero's Name	Heroic Characteristics	Odysseus (use examples from the text including page numbers)
Example of Heroic Characteristics	The main character is a hero, who is often possessed of supernatural abilities or qualities.	
	The hero is charged with a quest.	
	The hero is tested, often to prove the worthiness of himself and his quest.	
	The presence of numerous mythical beings, magical and helpful animals, and human helpers and companions.	
	Strengths (including abilities and powers either natural or gifts from the gods) and weakness(es)	
	The hero's travels take him to a supernatural world, often one that normal human beings are barred from entering.	
	The cycle must reach a low point where the hero nearly gives up his quest or appears defeated.	
	A resurrection.	
	Restitution. Often this takes the form of the hero regaining his rightful place on the throne.	

Timeline of Events



Your Personal Odyssey

The dictionary defines the word “odyssey” as “a long adventurous voyage or trip.” If you think about it, your life so far has been an odyssey. The journey of Odysseus has been called a metaphor for life. In other words, as each of us travels through life, we will experience problems, adventures, and discoveries, just as Odysseus did.

The following fifteen references to the *Odyssey* give you fifteen ideas for creating your own timeline of your life. Creatively answer the following questions or prompts. Label the years and categories. Be creative as you construct a decorative timeline to illustrate your journey.

The Journey Begins

You are born.

Farewell to Ithaca

Describe your feelings about being away from home for the first time.

The Trojan Horse

Describe the best and most creative idea you have ever had.

The Lotus Eaters

Describe one of the strangest things you have ever seen or experienced.

Cyclops’s Cave

Describe a narrow escape you have had

Down to Hades

If you could speak to one person who is dead whom would you choose and what questions would you ask.

Circe’s Advice

Describe the best piece of advice that anyone has ever given you.

The Sirens

Describe the greatest temptation you have ever faced.

Scylla or Charybdis?

Describe the most difficult decision you have ever had to make.

Ino’s Magic Veil

Describe the biggest favor anyone has ever done for you.

Calypso’s Island

Describe a time when you felt “trapped” and unable to be where you wanted.

Defeat of the Suitors

Describe a situation in which the odds were against you, but you managed to win anyway.

Penelope

Describe the most loyal person you have ever known.

Athena’s Guidance

Describe the person who has been most helpful to you during your journey.

Singing Your Praises

Describe a quality which you possess that you think the gods would find impressive.

Extra Credit Opportunity

Directions: Read the information below about the hero archetype. Then write a one to two page essay in which you compare and contrast the type of hero Odysseus is to an example of a modern hero from either literature or film (examples of modern hero's include Luke Skywalker or Anakin Skywalker from *Star Wars*, Frodo or Sam from *The Lord of the Ring*, Harry Potter from the *Harry Potter* series, Peter from *Spiderman*, Bruce Wayne from *Batman*, and many others.)

Archetypes: Hero

Overview

“The word **hero** is Greek, from a root that means “to protect and to serve” (incidentally the motto of the Los Angeles Police Department). A Hero is someone who is willing to sacrifice his own needs on behalf of others, like a shepherd who will sacrifice to protect and serve his flock. At the root of the idea of **Hero** is connected with self-sacrifice. (Note that I use the word Hero to describe a central character or protagonist (main character) of either sex.)”(Vogler 35)

Function in Drama

“The dramatic purpose of the Hero is to give the audience a window into the story. Each person hearing a tale or watching a play or movie is invited, in the early stages of the story, to **identify** with the Hero, or to merge with him and see the world of the story through his eyes. Storytellers do this by giving their Heroes a combination of qualities, a mix of universal and unique characteristics.” (36)

“Heroes have qualities that we all can identify with and recognize in ourselves. They are propelled by universal drives that we can all understand: the desire to be loved and understood, to succeed, survive, be free, get revenge, right wrongs, or seek self-expression”(36).

“Stories invite use to invest part of our personal identity in the Hero for the duration of the experience. In a sense we become the Hero for awhile. We...see the world through her eyes. Heroes need some admirable qualities, so that we want to be like them.”(36)

Growth

“Another story function of the Hero is learning or growth....Heroes overcome obstacles and achieve goals, but they also gain a new knowledge and wisdom. The heart of many stories is the learning that goes on between a Hero and a mentor, or a Hero and a lover, or even between a Hero and a villain.”(37)

Action

“Another heroic function is acting or doing. The Hero is usually the most active person in the script. His will and desire is what drives most stories forward....The Hero should perform the decisive action of the story, the action that requires taking most risk or responsibility.”(37)

Sacrifice

“People commonly think of Heroes as strong or brave, but these qualities are secondary to **sacrifice** – the true mark of a Hero. Sacrifice is the Hero’s willingness to give up something of value, perhaps even her own life, on behalf of an ideal or a group.”(38)

Varieties of Hero:

Willing or Unwilling Hero:

“...Heroes are of two types:

- 1) *willing*, active, gung-ho, committed to the adventure, without doubts, always bravely going ahead, self motivated
- 2) *unwilling*, full of doubts and hesitations, passive, needing to be motivated or pushed into the adventure by outside forces” (41).

Group-Oriented or Loner Hero:

“...[M]ost Heroes are *group-oriented*: They are part of a society at the beginning of the story, and their journey takes them to an unknown land far from home. When we first meet them, they are part of a clan, tribe, village, town, or family. Their story is one of separation from that group... lone adventure...away from the group...and usually, eventual reintegration with the group” (42-43).

For loner heroes, “[t]heir journey is one of re-entry into the group...adventure within the group, on the group’s normal turf...and return to isolation....For them the Special World...is the tribe or village which they visit”(43).

Cited Source: Vogler, Christopher. The Writer’s Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers. 2nd edition. Studio City, CA: Michael Wiese Productions, 1998.