

Homer's *Odyssey*: Part One**Book I: A Goddess Intervenes** p. 1204

1. Homer opens with an invocation, or _____, so that the Muse will inspire him to tell a good tale.
2. Homer tells his audience that 'not by will or by valor' could he save his _____, who were destroyed by their own _____ because his crew killed and feasted on the _____, and _____ of _____, the Sun god.
3. Homer reveals that even after Odysseus returns to his home, _____, he still has _____ and dangers to endure.
4. Odysseus is said to have the following traits: _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Book V: Calypso, the Sweet Nymph pp. 1206-1209

5. Calypso has held Odysseus captive for _____ years.
6. The first four books of The *Odyssey* concern _____, Odysseus's son, and his search for information about his missing father.
7. Hermes visits Calypso and tells her to release Odysseus by order of _____.
8. Every day Odysseus _____. (nighttime is another story)
9. Calypso tells Odysseus she is releasing him because _____. Why do you think she says this? _____.
10. Calypso promises Odysseus that if he stays with her she will make him _____.
11. Odysseus, "the strategist," tells Calypso that his wife Penelope 'would seem a shade before your majesty.' What he means by this is _____.
11. After leaving Calypso's island, Poseidon conjures up another storm, but with the help of Athena Odysseus washes up on the shore of _____.
12. Reread lines 9-12. These lines contain an example of a Homeric simile. Define this term: _____

What is Hermes' flight being compared to? _____
_____.
12. Reread lines 15-31. Describe Calypso's island. _____

_____.
13. Reread lines 43-54. What traits best describe Odysseus: _____

_____.
14. Reread lines 81-86. These lines contain an example of an epithet. Define this term. _____

What adjectives are used to describe Odysseus? _____
_____.

Why do you think he is described this way? _____

Book IX: New Coasts and Poseidon's Son pp. 1210-1223

"I am Laertes' Son" pp. 1210-1212

1. Odysseus is found by the daughter of _____, king of the Phaeacians.
1. To the Grecians, all visitors had to be treated with great courtesy because they were all considered to be _____. For this reason, a great feast is thrown for the unidentified Odysseus.
2. When Alcinous asks Odysseus to identify himself, he begins to tell the story of his _____.
3. The technique used by Homer to start in the middle of the story is called (in Latin) _____. Returning to the beginning of the journey in Book 8 is a tactic known as _____.
4. Odysseus says his father's name is _____ and that he is from _____.
5. After leaving Troy, Odysseus and his crew land near _____ the city of the Cicones. The Cicones are allies of the _____. Odysseus and his men raid the Cicones until Odysseus and his men are attacked, and they lose many men.
6. Reread lines 24-26. What does Odysseus value most highly? _____

"The Lotus-Eaters" pp. 1212

7. The men might have made it home, but as they rounded Malea: _____
_____.
8. Odysseus's men who eat the _____ plant _____ all thoughts of their _____.
9. Odysseus has to _____ these men to the boats to get them away.
10. Identify something that could be considered a common day Lotus. Explain your answer. _____

_____.

"The Cyclops" pp. 1212-1223

11. Odysseus next tells Alcinous about his encounter with _____, the Cyclops.
12. The Cyclopes are described as _____, _____ and _____.
13. Reread line 68. What adjectives are used to describe the dawn?

Why do you think it is described this way? _____

14. It is Odysseus' famed _____ that leads him to the Cyclops's cave.
15. Soon Odysseus's men are trapped in the cave, because the Cyclops _____
_____.
16. Reread lines 185-190. What traits describe Odysseus? _____

17. Odysseus watches in horror as the Cyclops _____ two of his men each morning and night.

18. After getting Polyphemus drunk, Odysseus tells him his name is _____, a play on the word _____ . What trait(s) best describe Odysseus at this point? _____
19. With his companions, he fashions _____, which he heats in the fire and _____
20. Reread lines 292-297 and lines 299-303. What two things are being compared in each case? What are the effects of this figurative language? _____
21. Odysseus and his men make their escape by _____.
22. Reread lines 330-336. Identify character traits that Odysseus displays. _____
23. Reread lines 419-420. What adjectives are used to describe Odysseus? _____
24. Odysseus's ego gets in the way when he can't resist taunting the monster by _____
25. Polyphemus calls on his father _____ to keep the wanderer at sea for many years.
26. Reread lines 437-452. How has Odysseus brought the curse upon himself? _____

Book X: Circe, the Grace of the Witch p. 1224

27. The wind king, _____, gives Odysseus two gifts: _____ and _____
28. While Odysseus is asleep his men become curious and _____, blowing the men off course again.
29. Odysseus and his men land at the home of the _____, fierce _____.
30. Only _____ men remain when they land on the island of Circe, who is believed to be a _____
The name of her island is called _____.
31. Odysseus divides his men into two groups: _____ leads one platoon that is to _____ and one led by _____ that stays behind on the ship.
32. Reread lines 6-11. What are the wolves and lions being compared to? _____
What is the point of this comparison? _____.
33. When the men first encounter Circe, she is _____ and _____ a fabric.
34. All the men go into Circe's house except _____.
35. Circe gives the men a magic drink and then turns them into _____.
36. The winged god Hermes gives Odysseus an _____ called _____ that will weaken Circe's power, and she is so impressed at his resistance that she reverses her spell on the men.
37. Instead of leaving, Odysseus and his men stay on Circe's island for many _____ before asking her to help them. She tells Odysseus that they must travel to the _____ to seek the advice of the blind prophet _____.

Book XI: The Land of the Dead pp. 1226-1229

38. To enter the Underworld, Odysseus must sacrifice a _____ and a _____

39. As soon as he does so, many _____ begin to swarm around him.
40. The god Odysseus speaks of in line 20 is _____.
41. The first shade that Odysseus recognizes is _____. This person was a member of _____ . He died when _____.
42. The second shade that Odysseus recognizes is _____. This person is Odysseus' _____.
43. The third shade that Odysseus sees is _____. This shade sees the destruction of Odysseus' ship and crew if they raid the cattle of _____.
44. Even upon returning to Ithaca, the blind prophet sees that Odysseus' home will be filled with _____ men that he must battle.
45. Aside from battling Penelope's suitors for his throne, Odysseus must make a _____ to Poseidon to atone for his arrogance against him.
46. Reread lines 77-117. Do you think that Odysseus' fate will unfold exactly as Tiresias foretells it? Explain your answer.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Book XII: The Sirens: Scylla and Charybdis pp. 1230-1236

47. After leaving the Underworld, Odysseus and his men return to _____ island; she tells him about the _____, whose singing draws men to their shores and eventual death.
48. She tells Odysseus to plug his men's ears with _____, but if he wants to hear them, he should be tied to the _____ of his boat so he cannot go to them.
49. Circe also warns him about the dual peril of _____ and _____, two monsters living on opposite sides of a straight that he must pass.
50. Summarize Scylla's appearance as she is explained in lines 43-58: _____
51. _____
52. Explain what Charybdis does three times a day as it is explained in lines 63-66: _____
- _____
53. Circe tells Odysseus that if he hugs the cliff of Scylla when passing, he will only lose _____ men. Why is it this many men? _____.
54. For the second time Odysseus is told not to _____ the sheep or cattle of the _____ the Sun or else all of his _____ will die.
55. What does Odysseus tell his men about the dangers of Scylla and Charybdis? _____
- _____
56. Reread lines 108-179. Do you think Odysseus is a good leader? Explain. _____
- _____
57. Reread lines 193-198. What two things are being compared? How does this image express the men's hopelessness?
- _____
- _____

Big Picture Questions:

Directions: Answer each question in a complete sentence.

1. One theme in Part I is that a hero must rely on clever deceit, or guile, to survive. Explain how this is conveyed.
2. In discussing Homer's use of epic similes, the critic Eva Brann contends that "similes do much the same work in Homeric epic as do the gods, who also beautify and magnify existence." Think about how the gods interact with humans in the *Odyssey*. Do you agree that they "beautify and magnify" human existence? Then consider the epic similes you have encountered so far; how might they be seen to do the same?
3. So far, from what you've observed of Odysseus, how would you describe what the Greeks valued in a hero? Do we value these same characteristics today? Explain. How is Odysseus an example of an epic hero? Discuss his strengths and weaknesses.
4. Suppose Odysseus were a modern general who had fought a war for ten years and was missing for another ten years. What emotional problems might he have faced after that ordeal? What changes might he have found in his home and family after twenty years?
5. If you were one of Odysseus' shipmates, how would you feel about him? Is he foolhardy or a reliable leader? Explain your opinion.
6. Which of these themes will you find in Part I of the *Odyssey*?
 - a. A hero must know when to back down from a challenge.
 - b. A hero must use clever deceit to survive.
 - c. A hero must never tell the truth to strangers.

The event that conveys this theme is