***The Odyssey* by Homer Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Advanced English 1 Period \_\_\_\_\_**

**Discussion Questions**

**Book 1: A Goddess Intervenes**

**Pg. 1104**

1. Who is speaking? To whom?
2. What is she asking for?
3. What has been happening while Odysseus has been away?
4. Where does Telemachus go, and what is happening on Ithaca while he is away?
5. Odysseus is said to be, “that man skilled in all ways of contending” (Lines1-15). What traits is he shown to have?

**Book 5:Calypso, the Sweet Nymph**

**Pgs. 1106-1109**

1. Where has Odysseus been for seven years?
2. What message does Zeus tell Hermes to take to Calypso?
3. Identify the epic simile in Lines 9-12. What does this comparison tell you about Hermes?
4. In Lines 15-31, there is a description of Calypso’s home. What relationship does Calypso appear to have with nature? Explain.
5. What is Odysseus doing when Hermes enters Calypso’s cave?
6. What makes Odysseus cry?
7. Calypso uses three tactics to try to keep Odysseus from leaving her. What are they?
8. Re-read Odysseus’ answer to Calypso in Lines 81-86. Why do you think he is referred to in Line 80 as “the strategist Odysseus”?
9. Who is Athena? Why is she the one to “seal his cherished eyes”?

**Book 9: New Coasts and Poseidon’s Son**

**Pgs. 1110-1123**

1. Summarize the explanation for Books 9-12 that is given at the top of the page.
2. What is the point of view of Book 9? Who is speaking?
3. Re-read lines 24-26. What does Odysseus value most highly?
4. What happened at The Cicones?
5. Read Lines 44-52, and explain how the Lotus Eaters pose a threat to Odysseus and his men.
6. Why doesn’t Odysseus respect the Cyclopes?
7. Epithet-- Notice the descriptive phrase used to characterize the dawn in Line 68. What does this description tell you about the dawn?
8. What do Odysseus’ men ask him to do once they see the Cyclops’ dwelling?
9. What two points is Odysseus trying to make with his response in Lines 163-175?
10. What gruesome threat does the Cyclops pose to Odysseus and his men?
11. What “gift” does the Cyclops gives to Odysseus?
12. Find the epic similes in Lines 292-303. What two things are being compared?
13. What do you learn about Polyphemus from the allusion in Lines 321-322?
14. What characteristics of an Epic Hero are reinforced on Pgs. 1118-1121?
15. How did Odysseus and his men escape from the Polyphemus’ cave?
16. Paraphrase Polyphemus’ curse found in Lines 443-452. How did Odysseus bring this curse upon himself?

**Book 10: Circe, the Grace of the Witch**

**Pgs. 1124-1125**

1. Why are Odysseus and his men at Aeaea? What are they going to do there?
2. Find the simile in Lines 5-11. Explain it.
3. What happens to the men after they drink Circe’s magic potion?
4. What must Odysseus do in order to get his men released from Circe’s spell?

**Book 11: The Land of the Dead**

**Pgs. 1126-1129**

1. Whom does Odysseus find in The Land of the Dead? What is this man’s request?
2. What woman does Odysseus recognize in The Land of the Dead?
3. Tiresias is blind. Why is that ironic?
4. Summarize the information that Tiresias gives to Odysseus.
5. What does Tiresias say to Odysseus? Of what does he warn him?
6. What makes Odysseus leave The Land of the Dead?

**Book 12- The Sirens; Scylla and Charybdis**

**Pgs 1130-1136**

1. What does Circe tell Odysseus about the Sirens? What can you interpret about the Sirens from the art on Pg. 1131?
2. What are Odysseus’ two possible courses as described by Circe?
3. What is the advice that Circe gives Odysseus in Lines 68-85?
4. Do you think Odysseus has the power to steer his fate? Both Tiresias and Circe have warned him of an ominous journey.
5. How does Odysseus protect his crew from the song of the Sirens? How does the crew protect Odysseus?
6. Consider Odysseus’ behavior in Lines 108-179. Do you think he is a good leader at this point? Explain your opinion.
7. In Lines 193-198, a simile illustrates the powerlessness of the men caught in Scylla’s grasp. To what does Homer compare the men hanging in the air? Fishing is an ordinary activity. How does this add to the horror of the simile?
8. Odysseus’ men do not listen to him, and they feast on Helios’ cattle. How does Circe’s warning about this action come true?

**Pg. 1141**

1. Read the section on Literary Analysis: Characteristics of an Epic
2. Complete the Vocabulary in Context exercise.

**Book 16- Father and Son**

**Pgs. 1142-1147**

1. Which goddess guides and helps Odysseus?
2. Why doesn’t Odysseus just go to his house and say, “Honey, I’m home!”? What is his plan?
3. Re-read Lines 26-30. What theme (underlying message) is being developed in this simile?
4. How do Lines 26-30 indicate an epic setting?
5. What words does the narrator use to describe Telemachus?
6. How does Telemachus treat Eumaeus? How does he treat Odysseus? What does this tell us about him?
7. Why might Odysseus and Penelope have chosen a swineherd to help raise their son?
8. Why doesn’t Telemachus believe that Odysseus is his father?
9. What striking character trait is shown in both Telemachus and Odysseus in Lines 99-107? Why is this unusual?
10. What does Telemachus tell his father? What is Odysseus’ new plan?

**Book17- The Beggar at the Manor**

**Pgs. 1148-1149**

1. Eumaeus does not know that he is speaking to Odysseus in this part. (Odysseus is disguised as a beggar; only Telemachus knows.) What kind of irony is presented here?
2. What happens when Odysseus enters the palace?

**Book 21- The Test of the Bow**

**Pgs. 1150-1155**

1. Describe the contest that Penelope offers the suitors.
2. Odysseus lets two men in on his secret identity. Who are these two men?
3. What is the plot stage in Lines 84-93. What do you think is about to happen?
4. What does Zeus’ thunder indicate?
5. How does Book 21 end?

**Book 22- Death in the Great Hall**

**Pgs. 1156-1161**

1. Why does Odysseus call on the god Apollo at this time?
2. Why does Odysseus kill Antinous first? Why does he do it in such a sudden and terrible way?
3. Why do the suitors believe that the killing of Antinous was a “wild shot”?
4. Why does the narrator call them “fools”?
5. What reasons does Odysseus give for killing the suitors?
6. What is Eurymachus’ motivation in Lines 45-59? What is his strategy for achieving his goal?
7. Why do you think Odysseus rejects Eurymachus’ offer of restitution?
8. How does Telemachus conduct himself during this conflict with the suitors?
9. Which goddess is helping Odysseus to be victorious?

**Book 23- The Trunk of the Olive Tree**

**Pgs. 1162-1165**

1. What did Athena do to get Odysseus ready to meet his wife?
2. Why did the goddess go to such lengths to make Odysseus handsome?
3. Do you think Odysseus’ beauty will melt Penelope’s heart? Explain your reasons.
4. Why is Penelope skeptical that this is her husband? Consider what has happened to her during his absence.
5. How has Penelope tricked Odysseus into proving his identity? What is the secret that Odysseus and Penelope share?
6. What traits of Penelope’s are revealed in Lines 58-80?
7. In the last simile, who is Penelope compared to?
8. What is the final challenge that Odysseus and Penelope have to face?

**“Penelope” by Dorothy Parker**

**Pg. 1166**

1. Who is the speaker? This is not the author’s name. Whose voice do you hear?
2. Who is the intended audience?
3. What is the meaning of the poem?