

The Odyssey by Homer
Study Guide Questions

When you get to the website listed on Ms. Sparks Webpage, you will need to answer the questions after you read each section. Write the answers **IN COMPLETE SENTENCES** on separate pieces of paper and put appropriate headings for each section. **DO NOT WRITE ON THE BACK OF YOUR PAPERS, PLEASE!**

Background:

1. What was the Trojan War?
2. What is known about the author, Homer?

Book One:

1. Which Goddess is Homer asking for inspiration at the beginning of this book?
2. What is an epic?
3. What is Olympus?
4. Who is Telemachus?
5. Who is Odysseus and what has happened to him?
6. What is happening to Penelope during Odysseus' absence?

Book Two:

1. Who is the council that Telemachus calls?
2. Who is Antinous?
3. Who is Eurycleia?
4. What sort of trickery has Penelope been using against her suitors?
5. What sign indicated doom for the suitors?
6. What does Telemachus do at the end of Book Two?

Book Three:

1. What is Pylos?
2. Who are Agamemnon and Menelaus?
3. Who is Orestes?
4. What is a sacrifice to the Greeks?
5. What does Nestor tell Telemachus about his father?

Book Four:

1. Write a brief summary of what happens in this book. (25 words or more)
2. What sort of "hospitality" does King Menelaus offer Telemachus and Nestor's son?
3. What is ambrosia?
4. Who is Tantalus?
5. What story does Queen Helen tell Telemachus?

Book Five:

1. What sort of "magic" is related to Hermes' sandals?
2. What is the River Styx?
3. Who is Orion?
4. Who is Leucothea?
5. How does Odysseus escape Calypso?

Book Six:

1. What does Nausicaa mean by "home"?

2. Who are the Phaeacians?
3. Who is Nausicaa?
4. What Goddess helps Odysseus and what does she do?
5. How does Nausicaa help Odysseus?

Book Seven:

1. Who is the queen?
2. Who is Alcinoos?
3. How did Odysseus get into the banquet?
4. What did the king and queen do for Odysseus?

Book Eight:

1. Who Demodocus?
2. Who is Achilles?
3. What does it mean by "Odysseus cried into his mantle"?
4. How does Odysseus set a "course"?
5. How do the queen and king try to entertain Odysseus?
6. What happens with each attempt?

Book Nine:

1. What is Ismarus?
2. What are Cicones?
3. What is the "land" of the Lotus-eaters?
4. What is Cyclopes?
5. What was the name of the Cyclops that Odysseus and men run into?
6. What does the Cyclops first do to Odysseus' men?
7. How does Odysseus and his men escape the Cyclops?

Book Ten:

1. Who is Aeolus?
2. What happens to Odysseus on the island of Aeolus?
3. What is Laestrygonians?
4. What happened to Odysseus on the island of Laestrygonians?
5. Who is Circe?
6. What happened to Odysseus' men on the island of Circle?
7. What is the "land of Death" ?
8. Who is Tiresias?

Book Eleven:

1. What is the "Ocean's stream"?
2. What are the "shades"?
3. What does Tiresias tell Odysseus?

Book Twelve:

1. Who are the Sirens?
2. What is Charybdis?
3. What is Scylla?
4. What happens to Odysseus' men?
5. Where does Odysseus end up?

Book Thirteen:

1. After the tale, where is Odysseus sent?

2. What does the Goddess Athena do to Odysseus?

Book Fourteen:

1. Who is Eumaeus?
2. How does he help Odysseus?

Book Fifteen:

1. How does Athena help Telemachus about Eumaeus?

Book Sixteen:

1. What major event happens in this book?

Book Seventeen:

1. Who is Melanthius?
2. Who is Argos?
3. Who is Antinous?
4. What happens to Odysseus in this book?

Book Eighteen:

1. Who is Irus?
2. What does he do to Odysseus?

Book Nineteen:

1. Who is Penelope?
2. Who is Eurycleia?
3. What is Mount Parnassus?
4. How is Odysseus recognized and what does he do?

Book Twenty:

1. Who is the exiled murderer?
2. What does the prophet tell the suitors and how do the suitors react?

Book Twenty-one:

1. What does Penelope bring before the suitors?
2. What is the task that Penelope has placed for the suitors?
3. What does Odysseus do?

Book Twenty-two:

1. What are the "shields and spears"?
2. What happens to the suitors, the housemaids, and the goatherder?

Book Twenty-three:

1. What happens to the mansion?
2. What does Odysseus order after that?
3. What does Penelope do?

Book Twenty-four:

1. Who is Laertes?
2. What happens to the suitors?
3. What happens to Antinous' father?