

Study Guide – The Odyssey, Book I: Introductions

The cast (at least the first round...) – Identify who each is and a connection with Book 1

“the man of twists and turns”

Poseidon

Calypso

Athena

Mentes

Nestor

Menelaus

Telemachus

Penelope

Laertes

Eurycleia

Phemius

Eurymachus

Antinous

Allusions:

Orestes

Agamemnon

Aegisthus

Vocabulary:

Achaeans, Argives, Danaans = Greeks

The setting(s) (also see customs for a sense of the settings)

Where is Odysseus?

Where is Poseidon?

Where are the gods?

Where does Athena go to meet w/ Telemachus?

The plot: Marching Orders/ Tasks

What does the poet ask the Muse to do?

What does Athena want Zeus to do?

What does Athena assign to herself to do?

What does Athena say that Hermes should do?

What does Telemachus wish his father would do?

What does Athena/ Mentos tell Telemachus to do? (Be accurate-there are 2 tasks and one thing to “think about.” See lines 311- 350)

The themes (just the first few—there are many more!)

It is a religious duty to be a good host. Re-read lines 144-168; 355-360. What actions does Telemachus indicate he should do for his guest?

Lies, deception, and craftiness are okay sometimes; anyway, it's just part of the human (and divine) condition. Who engages in deception in this chapter? How many examples of lies and/or deception can you spot?

Language and style: Read/ review the handout on epic style.

What and where is the Invocation of the Muse?

What is an epithet? Can you find one?

Something to consider (This means I'll probably ask this on a test): Books I- IV are sometimes referred to as the “**Telemachy**,” the story of Telemachus, son of Odysseus. What possible reasons would Homer have to begin with a focus on Telemachus, rather than on Odysseus himself?

Ancient Greek Customs to note:

- gods (esp. Athena) turning into birds
- using a father's name + *-ides* as a type of nickname. (This is called a patronymic.)

So what would your patronymic be? _____

- The Greeks had a thing for hair. Find at least one reference to hair & cite it by line number. ____
- *Xenia*- What's that?

Trivia: What color hair does Menelaus have?

