



Study Guide - Book 12

People and things you should be able to identify:

- Circe
- Sirens
- Scylla
- Charybdis
- Helios
- Eurylochus

1. In this chapter there is some evidence that Odysseus and his men have learned from their mistakes. Can you find any?
2. Odysseus assures his men that he will tell them all about what he learned from Circe, but is this true? What does he not tell them? Was he wrong not to tell them everything?
3. Find an epic simile on page 279. Use correct citation form to identify it.
4. Odysseus says losing his six men to Scylla was “the most pitiable sight” he encountered. Why would this be worse than his experience with the Cyclops or the Laestrygonians?
5. What portents occur that indicate that Helios’s cattle are magical and don’t “die”?
6. What do we already know will happen in the remainder of the book? (Consider Tiresias’s prophecy, Circe’s prediction, Penelope’s sister’s (the phantom’s) prediction about Telemachus, and the prophecy about the Phaeacian ship.) What don’t we know?

Note comments or questions on the reverse side ⇒