

The Odyssey Guiding Questions

Directions: Answer each of the following questions **under the bolded questions in this Google Doc**. Your answers should not be bolded.

- 1. Which two gods are the Greeks' greatest allies? Why do these gods later punish them?**
- 2. What happens to Agamemnon, Menelaus, and Ajax after they leave Troy?**
- 3. How long does Odysseus wander before he sees his home?**
- 4. Who is Penelope? What task does she want to complete before she will marry any of her suitors? Why is the task never completed?**
- 5. Which god has no sympathy for Odysseus?**
- 6. How were the gods able to come up with a plan to save Odysseus without Poseidon finding out?**
- 7. Who is Telemachus? What is his personality like?**
- 8. What disguise does Athena take? What does she instruct Telemachus to do?**
- 9. Which two men most likely know something about Odysseus' fate?**
- 10. Whose form does Athena take the second time she appears to Telemachus?**
- 11. Where is Menelaus currently living?**
- 12. Describe how Telemachus was treated when he arrived to Menelaus' home in Sparta.**
- 13. Which nymph keeps Odysseus?**
- 14. Of what are Hermes's sandals made? What powers are in his wand?**
- 15. Who spots Odysseus on the sea?**
- 16. Why does Odysseus not want to die in the storm? What does this tell you about his personality?**
- 17. Who helps Odysseus in the storm? What does she tell Odysseus to do?**
- 18. Who eventually calmed the waves? Why did she do this?**
- 19. To whom does the country (where Odysseus washes ashore) belong? Describe their way of life.**
- 20. Who finds Odysseus in the trees? What does she set out to do? How do she and her servants complete their work?**
- 21. What does she do for Odysseus?**
- 22. Why can't she take him to her father herself?**
- 23. What happened to the men who ate the "lotus" flower?**
- 24. If you could compare the "lotus" flower to something from our culture, what would it be?**
- 25. Who was Polyphemus' father?**
- 26. What was the gift that Aeolus gave Odysseus?**
- 27. What happened when the men opened the "bag of wind"?**
- 28. Who are the Laestrygons? What did they do to Odysseus' men and ships?**

29. What did Circe do to Odysseus' men?
30. How is Odysseus able to avoid Circe's spell?
31. What is Circe's reaction when Odysseus avoids her enchantment? How does this benefit both Odysseus and his men?
32. Who did Odysseus have to meet in the underworld in order to figure out how to make it back home?
33. What did Tiresias tell Odysseus?
34. How would the "sirens" attract men? What happened to the men who fell prey to the sirens?
35. What was Odysseus' plan that would allow for his men to avoid the sirens?
36. How was Odysseus able to listen to the sirens?
37. Who helped Odysseus make it through the passage between Scylla and Charbydis?
38. What was his men's punishment for eating the "sacred" oxen?
39. How does Odysseus eventually make it back to Ithaca?
40. Who is the first person to spot Odysseus on shore? What does she change Odysseus into? Why?
41. Who is Eumaeus? What are some of his personal qualities?
42. What do Telemachus and Odysseus plan to do in order to destroy the Suitors? What is their plan?
43. Why does Penelope decide that she might actually marry one of the suitors?
44. What challenge does Penelope set forth to the suitors?
45. What does Odysseus do after he is able to "string" his own bow?
46. Why do none of the suitors have their weapons?
47. How does Athena help Odysseus when he is "slaughtering" the suitors?
48. After the slaughter, there are only two "suitors" left. Which one does Odysseus kill and which one does he allow to live? How is this significant?
49. Surprisingly, Penelope does not immediately greet Odysseus? Why do you think this is?
50. What happens after Penelope and Odysseus reunite?