

Name: _____

Due Date: _____



“The Odyssey” Socratic Seminar

Pre-Seminar assignment:

Read all of the following questions and write 3 sentence (minimum) responses to at least five questions. *You must respond to question 6 as part of your responses.*

1. Odysseus is considered a thoughtful and intelligent leader of men, yet at times he makes decisions that are questionable. What are some of his decisions that could be seen as questionable or even foolish? When is a time in your life when you have acted like Odysseus?
2. What is the nature of Odysseus’ relationship with Calypso? Why does she want a man who is unhappy with her and loves someone else? What kind of relationship is similar to theirs in real life? Would you choose immortality if you had to live away from whom you loved?
3. What is the attraction of the Land of the Lotus eaters? What do you lose and what do you gain when you eat the Lotus? What is Lotus in real life? Besides drugs, what else could the Lotus represent?
4. What kind of life does the Cyclops live? What is attractive about his life if anything? What is negative about his life? What kind of person does he represent in real life? How is he similar or different from the Lotus eaters?
5. What is the life purpose of the Sirens? What does the pile of bones and sunken ships near them say about the men who sailed by them? What kind of person in real life is represented by the Sirens? What do you think made Sirens be the way they are?
6. Read the following quote and explain what Odysseus is frustrated about when he is speaking to the Cyclops, then connect his complaint to other literature, stories, real life or your own experiences. (Hint: What obstacles have you faced that have felt in your control vs. out of your control?)
“We are from Troy, blown off course by shifting gales on the Great South Sea; homeward bound, but taking routes and ways uncommon; so the will of Zeus would have it”(Homer 900).
7. If you could choose to be one of the Gods, creatures or characters in the Odyssey, who would you be and why? Under what circumstances would you like to be one of the characters for at least a little while and why?
8. If you had to choose one of these magic powers, which would you choose: Invisibility at will; or the ability to fly? Why?