

THE

# ODYSSEY

## *The Odyssey- Book 1 Notes*

- Homer asks the Muse to sing to him about Odysseus and his adventures.
- In medias res: Calypso has held Odysseus captive for seven years on the island of Ogygia.
- Athena has pleaded for his release in front of an assembly of gods.
- We find out Poseidon has hindered Odysseus from returning home, but Zeus demands that Poseidon get over it already.
- Hermes is sent to Ogygia to ensure Odysseus is release from captivity.



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## *The Odyssey- Book 1 Notes*

- Meanwhile, Athena flies to Ithaca to speak to Odysseus's son Telemachus.
- Droves of men courting Odysseus's wife Penelope have been feasting for years in Odysseus's court, pestering Penelope and depleting the resources of the estate.
- Athena takes the shape of Mentos, a friend of Odysseus's father Laertes.
- She finds Telemachus sitting idly in the midst of the festivities, dreaming of riding the kingdom of the men.

## *The Odyssey- Book 1 Notes*

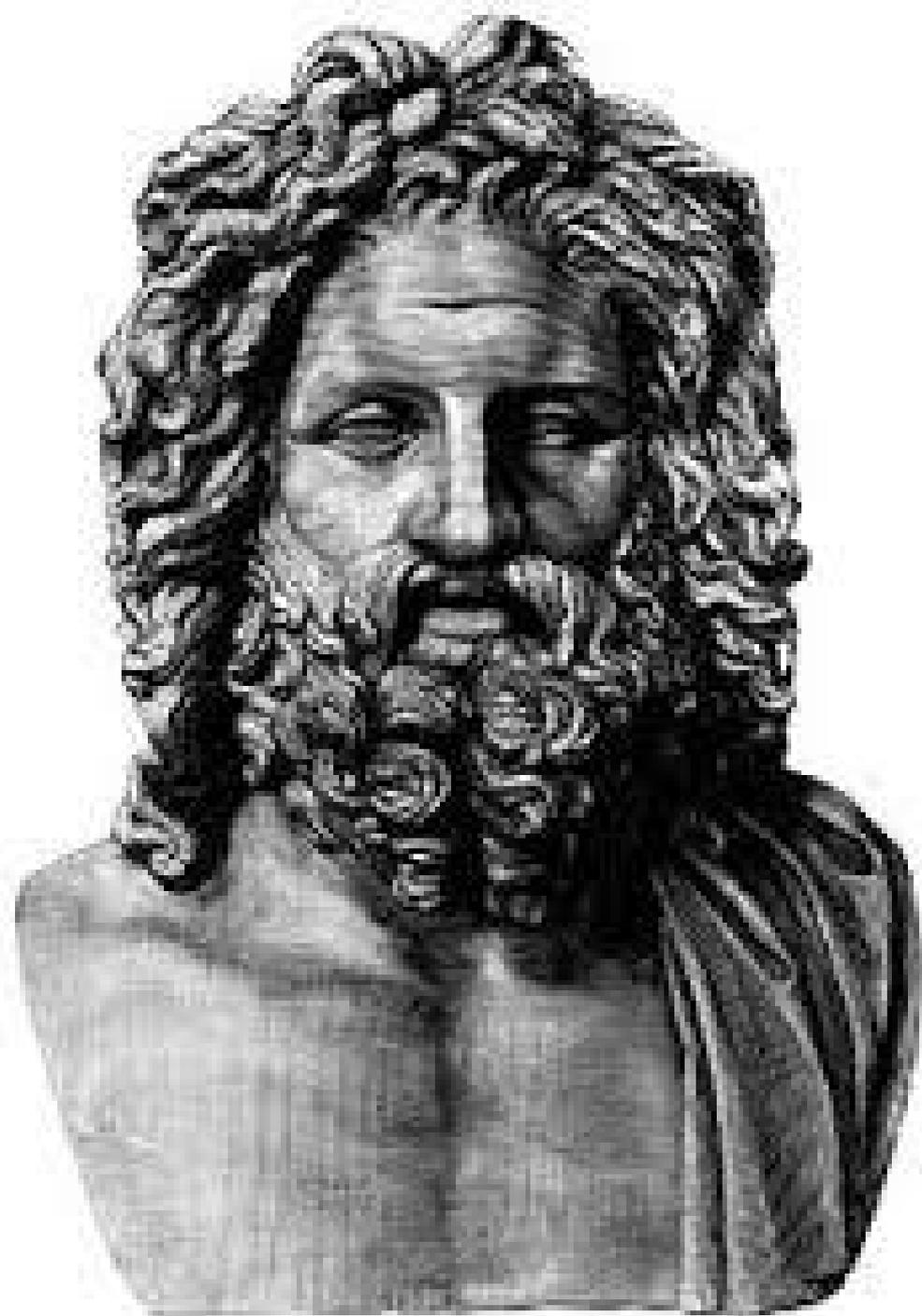
- Athena tells Telemachus that Odysseus is still alive and is fated to return home. She explains that he is being held captive on a faraway island.
- Telemachus tells Athena about the shame the suitors have brought to the estate– Athena tells Telemachus to avenge his father by killing them all. She cites another son who avenged his father and tells Telemachus to be more like that kid.
- She advises Telemachus to take a crew to Pylos and Sparta in search of his father.
- Once Athena leaves, Telemachus wonders if the old man was actually a god.

## *The Odyssey- Book 1 Notes*

-Penelope comes down from her room to complain about the music, saying it reminds her that her husband is still lost/gone. Telemachus tells his mother to have courage, then tells all the men to leave the house or Zeus will punish them.

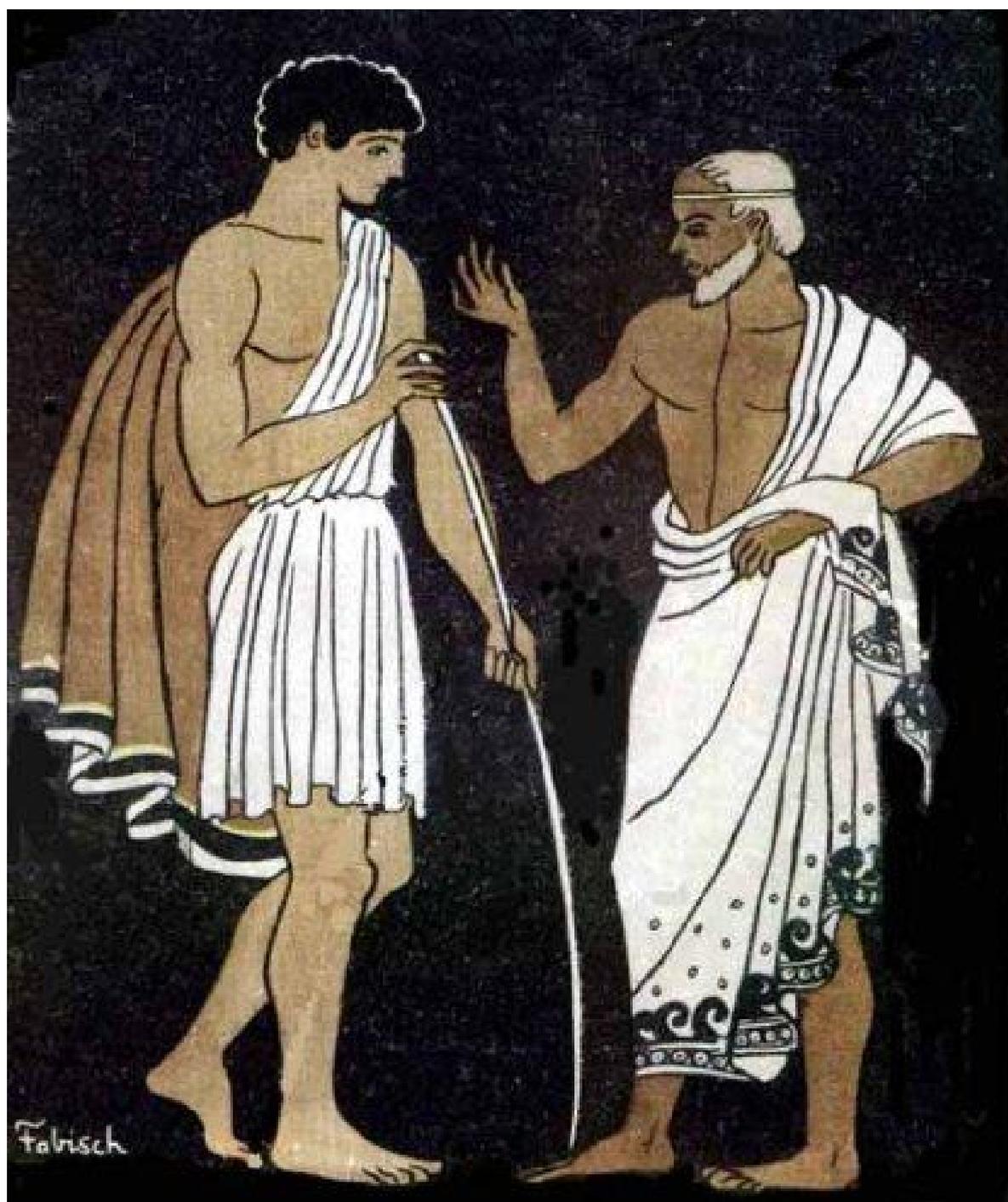
-They claim he has no authority in the kingdom. He shuts up.





## The Odyssey- Book 4 Notes

- The two men arrive at Menelaus's palace– they are bathed and oiled again.
- Menelaus begins to talk about the war and says Odysseus worked the hardest but suffered the most. Telemachus cries.
- Helen drugs the men. She then tells them about Odysseus's cleverness during the war.
- Menelaus tells Telemachus that he heard Odysseus was trapped on Calypso's island. And a bunch of other things about seals and tricking the gods.
- Meanwhile, the suitors find out Telemachus has left. They plot to murder him. Someone tattles to Penelope, and she lays in bed crying. Athena, disguised, tries to comfort her. Penelope starts asking about Odysseus.
- The suitors get a boat and set a trap in order to kill Telemachus.







## *The Odyssey- Book 5 Notes*

- Back to the scene in Book 1– Zeus tells Athena to take Telemachus back home and Hermes to tell Calypso to release Odysseus.
- Zeus decrees that Odysseus will sail home with great pain and difficulty (what a jerk!), and that he will arrive at the land of the Phaeacians, who will speed him home with vast treasures in tow.
- Hermes finds Calypso by a fire weaving and Odysseus crying on the beach.
- He tells Calypso what Zeus said, to which she responds that Zeus is just jealous. She says she loves Odysseus like her husband and has offered to make him immortal.
- Odysseus is still crying. He weeps for Penelope. Calypso tells him to pull it together.

## *The Odyssey- Book 5 Notes*

- Calypso warns Odysseus that his travels will be difficult and advises him to stay with her. She says she may not be as pretty as his wife, but she wants him to stay.
- Odysseus says that Penelope is not as pretty as Calypso, but he still misses his home. They sleep together. (He also says that he never cheated on Penelope with his heart, just his body).
- In the morning, he builds a raft and sails for seventeen days before seeing the Phaeacian island.
- Poseidon is still pretty salty and creates a huge storm that destroys Odysseus's raft. Odysseus wishes he had died in the war.
- A goddess takes pity of Odysseus and makes him immortal so he can swim to the island. Poseidon shrugs and gives up.

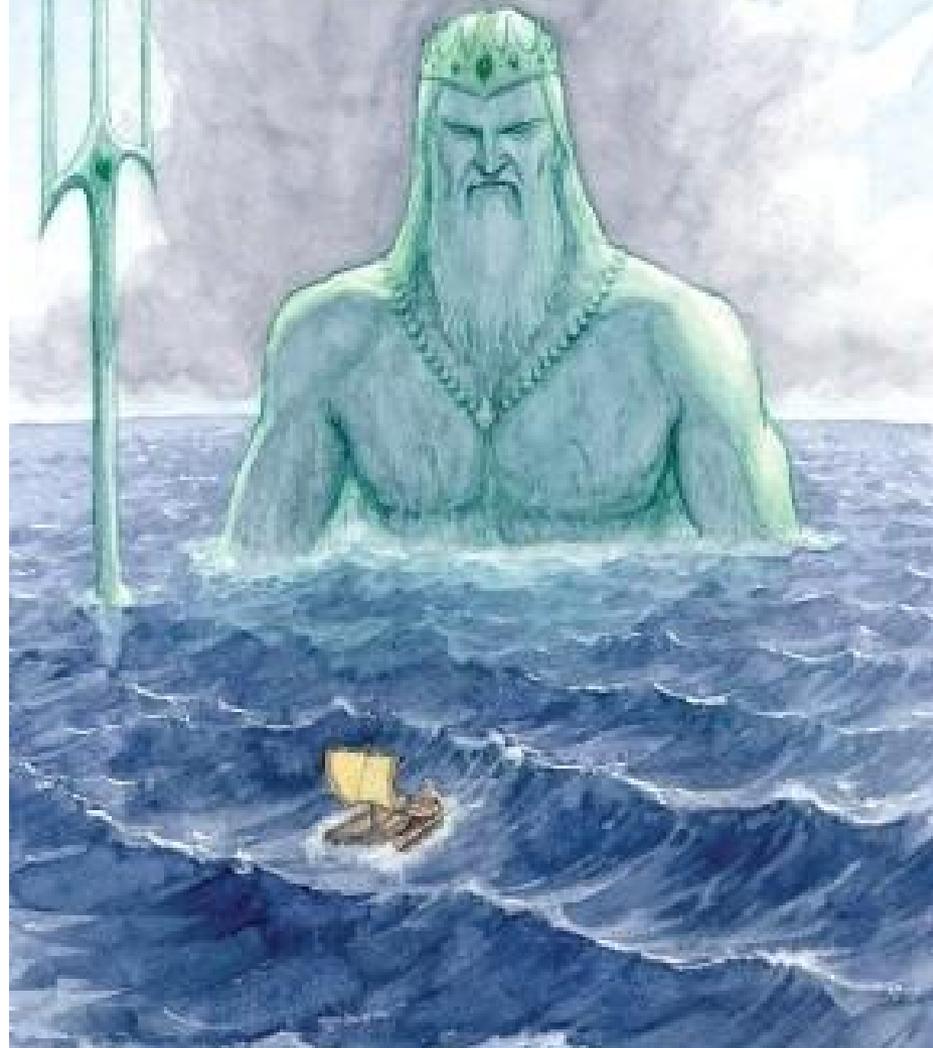








# THE ODYSSEY



A GRAPHIC NOVEL BY GARETH HINDS

—Based on Homer's epic poem









## *The Odyssey- Book 6 Notes*

- Odysseus falls asleep on the shore.
- Athena disguises herself as a teenage girl and finds the princess sleeping. She makes fun of how dirty the princess's clothes are and encourages her to wash them in the ocean.
- Athena and the princess go down to the shore where Odysseus is sleep and play (naked) while waiting for the clothes to dry. They wake Odysseus up.
- He's also naked, so he awkwardly walks out to greet them. All the girls run away, except the princess. He tells her she's really pretty. She tells him that it looks like the gods hate him, but agrees to help him out.
- Athena makes him look super hot and the girls are impressed. They refuse to walk with him in the town, though. The princess tells him how to get into the palace.







Michele Desubleo 1602-1676: Ulisse e Nausica. Photo © Maicar Förlag - GML

## *The Odyssey- Book 6 Notes*

- Athena, in disguise, tells the a group of people to get a crew and ship ready for Odysseus. They do so.
- A bard sings a song about Odysseus and Achilles which causes Odysseus to cry. Alcinous notices and challenges him to an athletic competition.
- The men beg Odysseus to compete, but he claims he's too tired. They make fun of him until he begrudgingly agrees. He beats them all.
- Alcinous claims the Phaeacians are only competitive at eating. So, they feast.
- The bard tells another story about Odysseus during the war that makes him cry, again.
- Alcinous demands to know who Odysseus is and why he's always crying.





## *The Odyssey- Book 9 Notes*

- Following the victory at Troy, Odysseus and his men sail to Ismarus (Cicones)



- With ease they sack the city, kill the men, enslave the women, and enjoy a rich haul of plunder.
- Odysseus advises men to leave immediately with new riches- but they ignore his advice.

## *The Odyssey- Book 9 Notes*

- The Cicones gather reinforcements and counterattack running out the Greeks
- Storms blow the ship off course and they arrive at the land of the Lotus Eaters ( eating the Lotus causes Odysseus' men to lose memory and desire to return home)



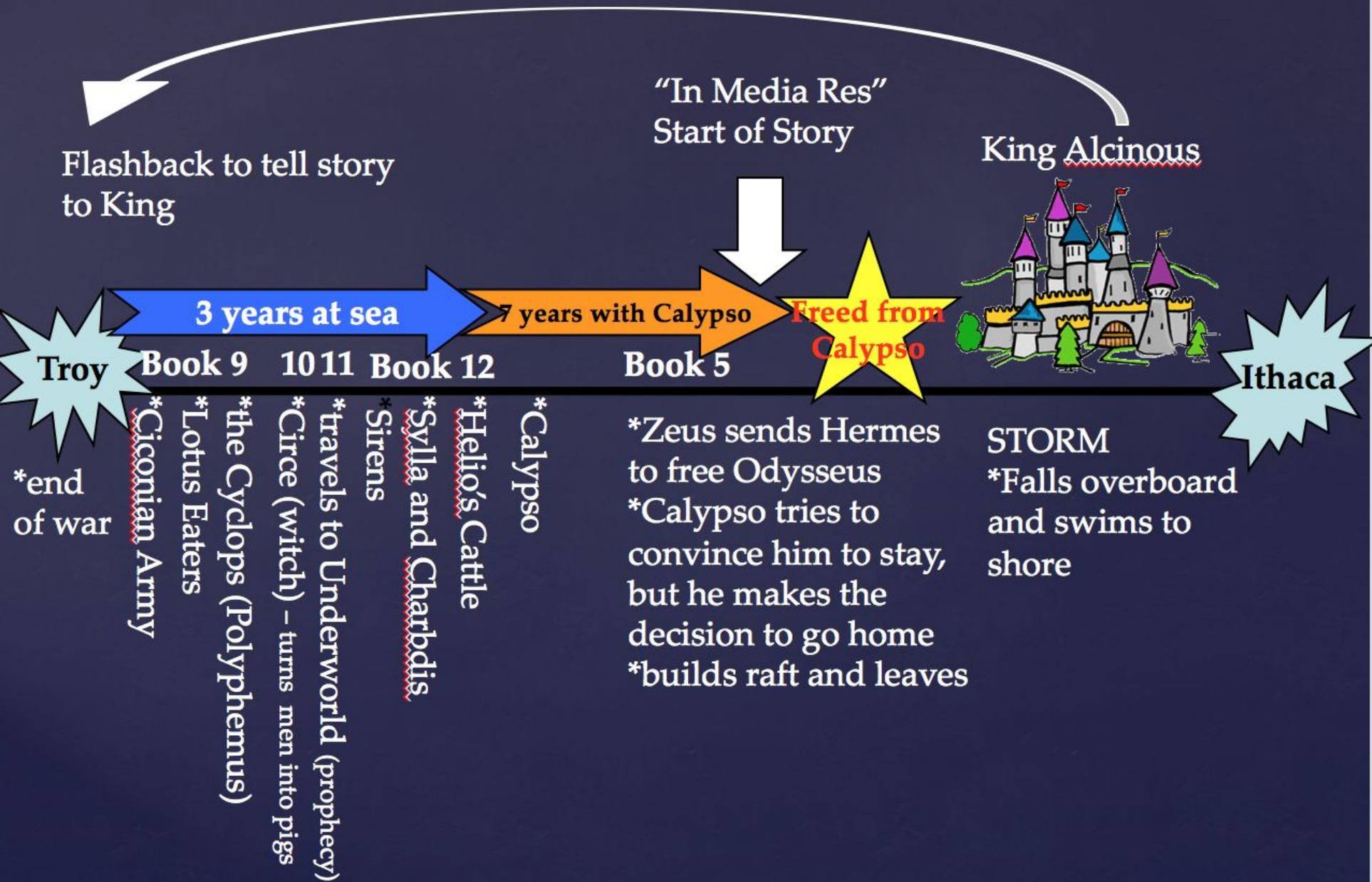
- Odysseus gets men back to sea.

## *The Odyssey- Book 9 Notes*

- The next stop is the land of the Cyclops (lawless one eyed giants)
- Polyphemus traps Odysseus and his men in a cave.
- Odysseus plans to get the Cyclops drunk and drive a wooden stake into his eye while asleep. This plan- along with some intellectual trickery “Nobody”- works and the men escape the cave by holding onto the bellies of sheep camouflaged by the touch of Polyphemus.



# Linear Timeline





Book 10:  
“Circe, the Grace of the Witch”









# Aeolus-God of the Winds



# The Odyssey- Book 10 Notes

## Book 10 Important Events



- Having escaped the Cyclops- Odysseus and his men arrive at the home of Aeolus, master of the winds, where they are greeted warmly and hosted for a month.
- Aeolus gives Odysseus an ox-skin pouch that has captured all of the winds that might threaten Odysseus' ship to go off course. Only the West Wind is free to blow them to Ithaca.
- After 10 days of sailing the men almost arrive to Ithaca- but the curiosity of Odysseus' men lead them to open the mysterious pouch. This action lets out the trapped wind and the men are blown right back to Aeolus' island. Aeolus refuses to help them again.



# The Odyssey- Book 10 Notes

## Book 10 Important Events Cont.

- With the loss of wind, the Greeks row to the land of the Laettrygonians (cannibalistic giants who attack and eat the seamen while throwing boulders at their ships and spearing them like fish- FUN).



- Only Odysseus' vessel escapes and sails to Aeaëa- home of the goddess Circe (whom Odysseus can only overcome with the help of Hermes).

## The Odyssey- Book 10 Notes

# Homeric Similes in Book 10

- In lines 6-11, notice the simile involving Circe's wolves and mountain lions. What is the point of this comparison? How does it affect your impression of Circe's hall?



**I tell you— but switching their long tails they faced our men like hounds, who look up when their master comes with tidbits for them—as he will— from table. Humbly those wolves are lions with mighty paws fawned on our men— who met their yellow eyes and feared them.**

# HADES

3 Levels-

Elysian Fields (Honored by the gods-get to keep body)

Erebus (Dark cavern-no body, but not tortured)

Tartarus (Get to keep body-better for torture)









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# The Odyssey- Book 11 Notes

- Odysseus follows Circe's instructions to get to the land of the dead:
- Digging a trench at the site prescribed
- Pouring libations of milk, honey, mellow wine, and pure water
- Ceremoniously sprinkling barley
- Sacrificing a ram and ewe letting the dark blood flow into the trench to attract the dead

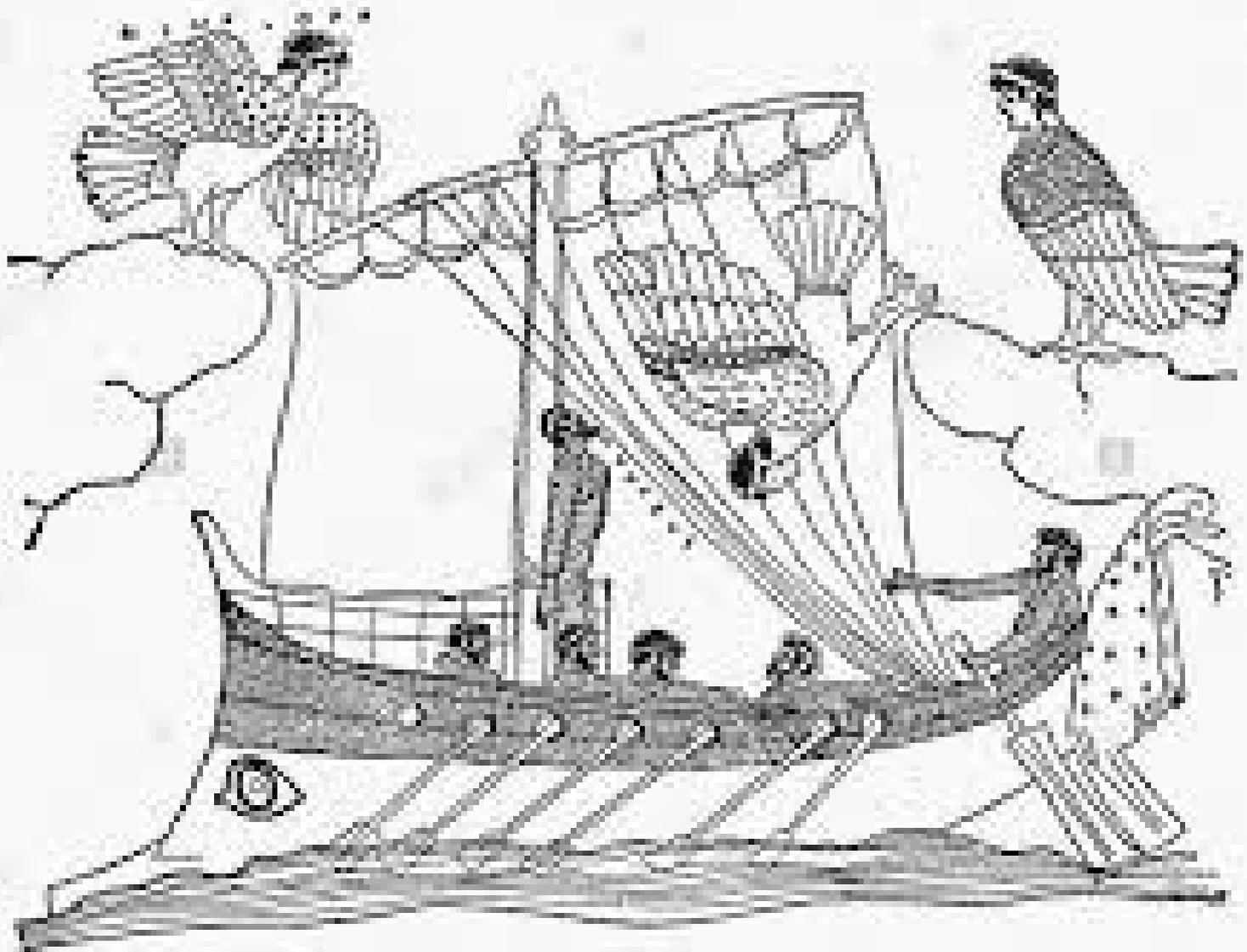


## *The Odyssey- Book 11 Notes*

- The first the approach Odysseus is Elpenor (one of his men who just died before leaving Circe).
- Reminder: Elpenor drunkenly fell off of Circe's roof breaking his neck
- Elpenor's spirit requests a proper burial when the Greeks return to Aeaea.
- Others drawn to the blood include: Odysseus' mother, Anticleia, Tiresias the prophet, and old friends of Odysseus (most importantly Agamemnon and Achilles).















## *Monsters in Book 12*

Charybdis was a sea monster, later rationalized as a whirlpool and considered a shipping hazard in the Strait of Messina.

Scylla was a monster that lived on one side of a narrow channel of water, opposite her counterpart Charybdis.

The two sides of the strait were within an arrow's range of each other—so close that sailors attempting to avoid Charybdis would pass too close to Scylla and vice versa.

Odysseus returns to Aeaea for Elpenor's funeral rites  
Circe is helpful providing supplies and warnings about journey that Odysseus and his men will embark upon during the next dawn.

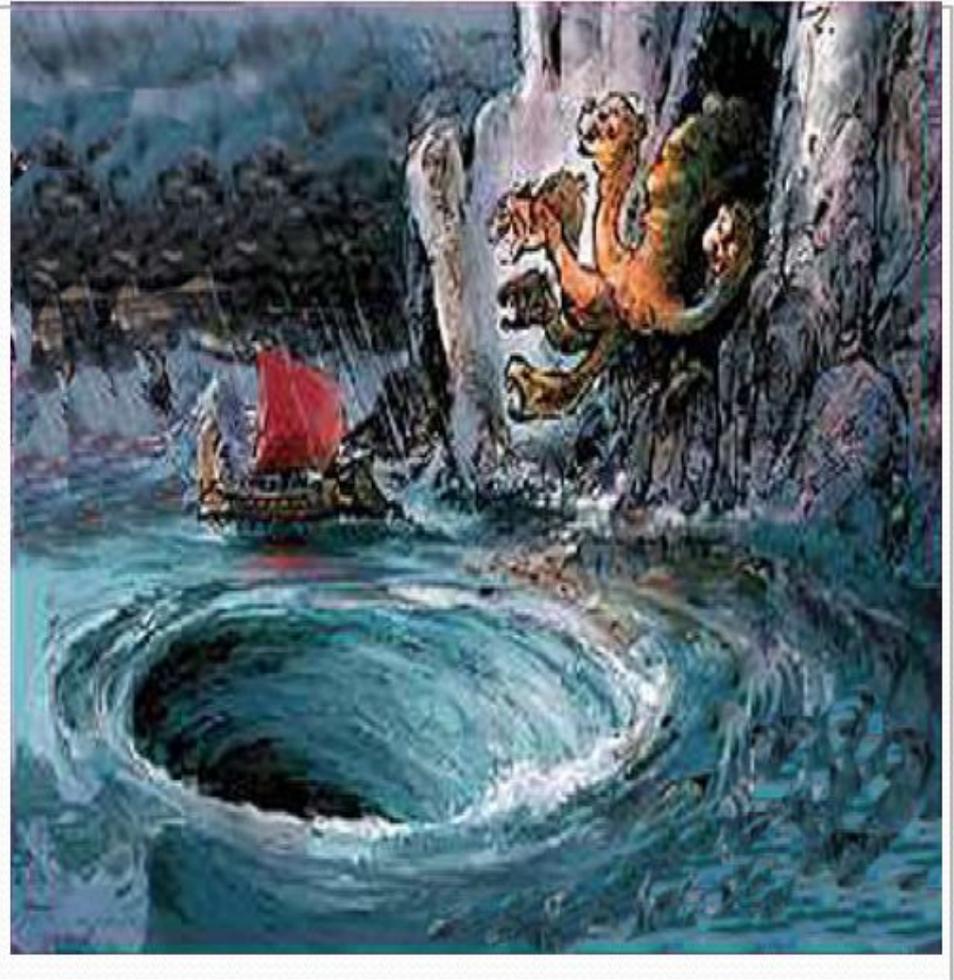
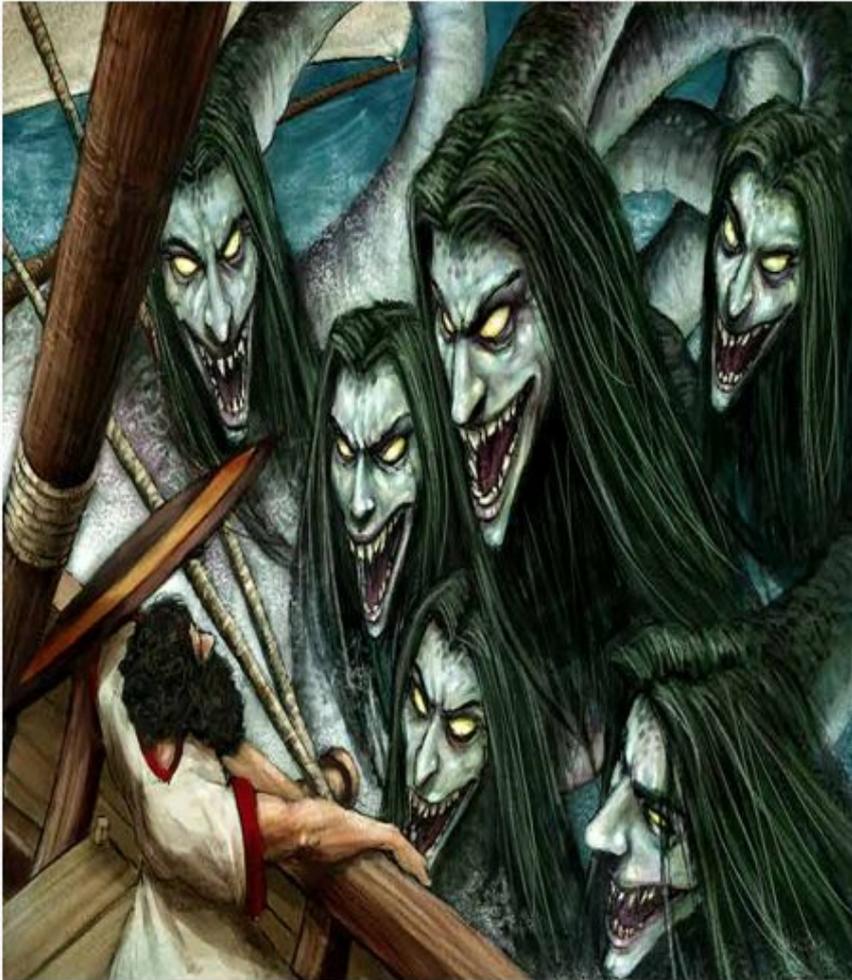
Warnings:

1. The Greeks must get past the Sirens (irresistible songs lure sailors into their coastal reefs)
2. Avoid the Clashing Rocks (Wandering Rocks/Rovers) which only the ship of the Argonauts ever escaped.

# Book 12 Cont.

- They choose to go AROUND the Clashing Rocks and must confront either Scylla or Charybdis.
- Scylla: 6 headed monster lurking in a fog-concealed cavern. She cannot be defeated in battle and will devour at least 6 of the Greeks in passing.
- Charybdis: A monster whirlpool that swallows everything near it 3 times a day.

# Scylla & Charybdis



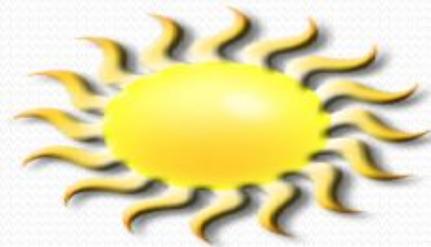
# Book 12 Cont.



- If the Greeks survive all of these obstacles- they will then face the deadliest threat- the tempting island Thrinacia of the Sungod Helios.
- Warning: DO NOT EAT SACRED CATTLE OF THE SUN! If they resist they will return home safely, if they harm the cattle- the ship and the men will be destroyed.
- Odysseus MAY survive alone- but will return home alone.

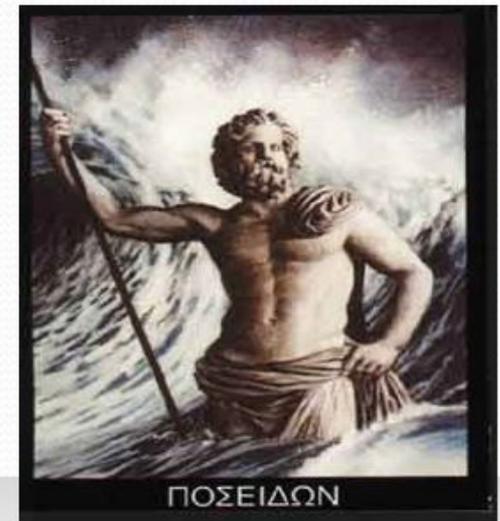


Foreshadowing? Predictions?



# Books 13 & 14 Important Events

- Odysseus' accounts of his wanderings in complete (The Phaeacians know the outcome)
- Alcinous assures Odysseus he will be returned safely home and insists that Odysseus return home with treasure surpassing his fair share from Troy.
- The Phaeacians safely get Odysseus home which annoys Poseidon (who complains to Zeus)
- The gods agree on Poseidon's vengeance against the Phaeacians.





# Hospitality



- The Phaeacians are models of hospitality towards strangers/friends as they welcome Odysseus and help him finally return to Ithaca.
- Hospitality and aiding strangers was a custom that was viewed as an exceptional virtue in Homer's world.
- Poseidon's negative reaction towards the Phaeacians contradicts this cultural value of hospitality- as he desired for them to turn Odysseus away and refuse to help him.



## For Homework Tonight...

- Pretend you are **King Alcinous** (ruler of the Phaeacians)
- **Write a letter to Poseidon** pleading for forgiveness as he is angry with you for aiding Odysseus.

### **In this letter include:**

- A detailed explanation of **WHY** you felt it was important to help Odysseus return home (defending your decision).
- A detailed explanation of how you or your people will repay Poseidon (Sacrifice? Shrine? Celebration? Fasting?) **BE CREATIVE/APPROPRIATE** *One whole page double spaced and typed, 12 pt. Times New Roman*

# Letter Format

King Alcinous  
Street Address  
Island of Phaecia

Dear god Poseidon,

Sincerely,

King Alcinous

# Books 15 & 16 Important Events

- Eumaeus and the beggar/Odysseus continue their conversations and Eumaeus tells his life story revealing he is of royal blood (but was kidnapped from home and purchased as a slave by Laertes).
- Meanwhile Athena guides Telemachus safely past the suitors ambush and tells him to go directly to the pig farm.
- Eumaeus is sent to tell Penelope of her son's safe return.



- Meanwhile Antinous tells of his plan to assassinate Telemachus- but Amphinomus (the most decent of the suitors) calls for patience in order to learn the will of the gods prior to striking.
- His argument wins and the suitors postpone their murderous plan.
- Penelope confronts the suitors but is cut off by the smooth-talking Eurymachus.
- Back at the pig farm Athena has turned Odysseus back into the old beggar. Among the mortals only Telemachus knows his true identity.



## Journal #25

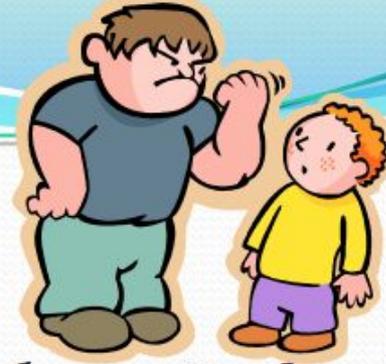
In Book 16, —At last, Telemachus and his father Odysseus are reunited in Ithaca. Reflect on a time when you were reunited with a loved one after being apart. What kinds of emotions did you experience? (If you cannot think of an example write as if you ARE Telemachus and you have just been reunited with Odysseus). *At least one whole page.*

# Book 17 Important Events

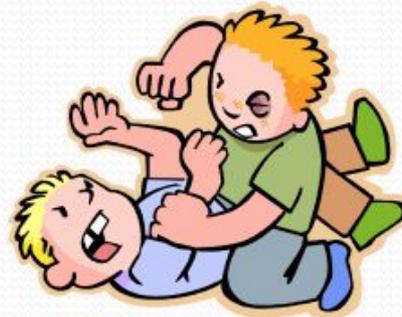
- Odysseus walks to town the next morning with Eumaeus-who still thinks he is accompanying an old beggar.
- Telemachus arrives into town before Odysseus and in an attempt to cheer up his mother tells her the stories of his travels.
- A seer (one who can predict the future) Theoclymenus tells Penelope that Odysseus is NOW in ITHACA gathering information- Queen Penelope wishes she could believe this but does not.



# Book 17 Cont.



- During the trip to town, Odysseus and the swineherd cross paths with Melanthius (bully)- but avoid a fight.
- Odysseus and his dying old dog Argos recognize each other (on the down low).
- In the banquet hall, Antinous bullies the ragged beggar (REALLY ODYSSEUS!) and even throws a footstool at him.
- The king and his son are patient and postpone revenge.



# Dramatic Irony in Book 17

- Reread lines 28-41(pg 1148-1149).
- Eumaeus still does not know that he is speaking to Odysseus in disguise. This is known as dramatic irony— when the reader knows more than a character knows.
- What event does this speech (lines 28-41) cause you to anticipate as a reader?



# Book 18 Important Events



- Vagabond Irus arrives- a comic favorite of the suitors. With the urging of Antinous – Irus picks a fight with beggar/Odysseus- which he soon regrets.
- Odysseus tries in vain to warn Amphinomus (the best of the suitors) that trouble is coming and to leave!
- Athena makes Penelope look more beautiful than ever in preparation for the reunion of the lovers.
- Odysseus rebukes Penelope's maidservant Melanthe for her neglect of the queen (she has been distracted and having an affair with Eurymachus a smooth talking suitor).
- Odysseus and Eurymachus have a confrontation.



# *Guided Reading Questions for Book 10- The Bag of Winds and the Witch Circe*

- 1. What is the name of the island where the men next land?**
- 2. Who is Aeolus, and what does he do?**
- 3. What do the sailors do to the bag of winds? What happens?**
- 4. Who are the Laestrygonians, and what do they do?**
- 5. Where do the men land next, and who lives there?**
- 6. Who leads the party of 22 men to explore the island?**
- 7. What creatures surround Circe?**
- 8. What was the goddess Circe doing when the men found her?**
- 9. Who is Polites?**
- 10. Which man does not go inside Circe's home? Why?**
- 11. What did Circe add to the men's drinks?**
- 12. What happened to the men?**
- 13. What does Hermes give Odysseus?**
- 14. What does Circe persuade Odysseus to do?**
- 15. For how long does Odysseus stay with Circe?**
- 16. Where do Odysseus and the men have to go before heading home?**
- 17. Who will share a prophecy with Odysseus?**

# Book 19 Important Events



- While the suitors go home for the night, Odysseus instructs Telemachus to gather the weapons and hide them where they will not be readily available to the suitors.
- Alone with Penelope- Odysseus offers evidence that he knew her husband. Penelope seems suspicious about his identity.
- Eurycleia (servant) is assigned to bathe the guest and comments on how much he resembles her king (Odysseus). She identifies a scar over his knee left by a boar's tusk and realizes she is bathing her old master.
- Odysseus swears her to SILENCE.



# Book 20 Important Events

- Odysseus spends a restless night worrying about the upcoming battle.
- Athena assures him that he will have certain victory.
- Odysseus overhears Penelope's prayer for death if she cannot join her husband soon (he imagines them being together once again).
- Odysseus prays to Zeus for support and in a sign of support Zeus responds with a thunderclap.



# Book 20 Cont.



- The celebration for Apollo occurs (god of archery).
- The suitors discuss the assassination of Telemachus once again and continue their partying ways.
- Ctesippus (suitor) mocks the old beggar (ODYSSEUS) and hurls an oxhoof at the king.
- Telemachus criticizes the suitors and lists some of their many offenses.
- Seer Theoclymenus speaks ominously to them offering 1 last warning- in arrogance they respond in laughter.



# Book 21 Important Events



- Penelope announces the contest and retrieves Odysseus' great back-sprung bow from a secret storeroom.
- Telemachus attempts to string the bow and fails 3 times- he is about to succeed on the 4<sup>th</sup> try when Odysseus privately signals him to back off.
- The suitors take turns and fail.
- Odysseus meets outside with Eumaeus and Philoetius (servants) and reveals his true identity to them and asks for support for his plan.

# Book 21 Cont.



- The suitors continue to struggle with the bow and Antinous suggest that the contest be postponed until the next day- but Odysseus (in disguise) asks if he can give the bow a try.
- Penelope supports this idea- and Odysseus easily strings the weapon and fires an arrow straight through the axes.
- Odysseus and Telemachus face the suitors.





# Book 22 Important Events

- Tearing off his beggar rags, Odysseus boldly catapults himself onto the hall's threshold (uttering a prayer to Apollo) and fires an arrow straight through Antinous' throat.
- Odysseus announces his intentions to the suitors (take their lives)
- Eurymachus tries to talk his way out of the situation and offers to repay all he has taken from Odysseus.
- Odysseus declines the offer and Eurymachus calls the men to arms (but as the weapons are hidden- the men only have the swords they are wearing). NO ARMOR

# Book 22 Cont.



- Odysseus rips through Eurymachus' chest and liver with an arrow.
- Amphinomus attacks and is killed by Telemachus.
- THE BATTLE IS ON
- Goatherd Melanthius (bully) brings the suitors armor and spears but is caught by Eumaeus and Philoetius and is strung up- alive- to be dealt with later.
- With Athena's intervention and encouragement, Odysseus WINS! All of the suitors are killed.
- The king then dispense justice to a few remaining individuals and a dozen servant girls.



## Book 23 Important Events

- The battle has ended/the house has been cleansed.
- Eurycleia tells Penelope what has happened- and Penelope is cautious about getting her hopes up that Odysseus has returned (so she goes to the great hall to see for herself).
- Telemachus scolds Penelope for her skepticism.
- Odysseus gently suggests the prince leave his parents alone so they can work things out.
- Odysseus also tells Telemachus to gather the servants and stage a fake wedding feast so others who pass by do not suspect the slaughter had taken place.

## Book 23 Cont.



- Penelope tests Odysseus. She asks Eurycleia to move the bedstead out of the couples chamber and spread it with blankets.
- The king himself had carved the bed as a young man, shaping it out of a living olive tree (building the bedroom around the tree).
- He knows the bed **CANNOT** be moved and becomes upset thinking the original bed was destroyed.
- Penelope is relieved that he knew such private information that only her husband would know and accepts that he has returned to her.



# Book 24 Important Events

- Hermes leads the souls of the dead suitors to the Land of the Dead (HADES). These souls pass Achilles and Agamemnon.
- One suitor recites the story of the courtship of Penelope- her resistance- and Odysseus' revenge.
- On Ithaca, Odysseus arrives at his father's farm and approaches Laertes who looks more like a slave than a king.
- Odysseus joins Laertes and Telemachus (and the 2 faithful herdsmen) for a homecoming meal.

# Book 24 Cont.



- Rumor of the slaughter has spread and Euphithes (father of Antinous) calls for revenge!
- Men follow Eupithes to Laertes' farm seeking vengeance.
- The intervention of Athena (appearing as Mentor) avoids another major battle/civil war.



## THE END

# Guided Reading Questions for Book 11- The Underworld

1. Where does Odysseus go next?
2. Who is the blind prophet?
3. What does Odysseus sacrifice to the dead?
4. What does Odysseus sacrifice to Teiresias?
5. Who were some of the dead?
6. According to Teiresias, who will cause Odysseus trouble? Why?
7. What will Odysseus find on Thrinakia?
8. If Odysseus's crew eats the cows, what will happen to them and their ship?
9. How many survivors will remain? (lines 1116-7).
10. What does Teiresias say Odysseus will find when he returns home?
11. After Odysseus returns home and kills the suitors, to whom should he make sacrifice?
12. Whose ghost does Odysseus see?
13. What is Odysseus's mother's name?
14. How did she die?
15. What did Odysseus try to do to his mother three times but fail?
16. Who does Odysseus accuse of making his mother appear as a hallucination?
17. What are the people's "bodies" like in the Underworld?
18. After the Land of the Dead, where does Odysseus go?

# *Guided Reading Questions for Book 9- The Cyclops*

- 1. Describe the cyclops: what does he look like; what is his favorite food; where does he live; what does he do for a living?**
- 2. How does Polyphemus lure the sailors into the cave?**
- 3. Explain two ways that Ulysses tricks Polyphemus.**
- 4. What happens after Polyphemus falls asleep? How do the men get out of the cave?**
- 5. Why don't the other cyclops help Polyphemus?**
- 6. What mistake does Ulysses make after he is back in the boat?**
- 7. Who does Polyphemus ask to punish Ulysses?**
- 8. Does Ulysses display any epic hero qualities in this chapter?**

## *Journal # 26*

**When Odysseus goes to The Underworld, he meets one of his men who died as well as his mother. He speaks with her and is distraught that she has died of grief waiting for him to return to Ithaca. He speaks to all of these shades and becomes quite overwhelmed and escapes on his ship. Thinking about all of the people who died of grief waiting for their husbands to return home, it becomes quite overwhelming with emotions. Is there a time in your life where you were so overwhelmed with emotions that you just ran away from your problems? How was your situation different than that of Odysseus? How did the grief affect you? *One whole page.***

# Guided Reading Questions for Book 12- *The Sirens, Scylla and Charybdis*

1. What is the first danger about which Circe warns Odysseus?
2. Describe the Sirens.
3. What will happen to Odysseus if he hears the sirens sing?
4. What does Circe tell Odysseus to do to the men's ears?
5. If Odysseus wants to listen to the sirens, what can he do?
6. What is the second danger?
7. Describe Scylla.
8. How many men does Scylla eat from passing ships?
9. What is the third danger.
10. What does Charybdis do three times?
11. What advice does Circe offer?
12. After going past Scylla, where will they go? What is on this island?
13. If Odysseus's crew eats the beeves (cattle), what will happen?
14. What does Odysseus not reveal to his crew?
15. What does Odysseus ask his men to do to him so he can hear the sirens?
16. What does Odysseus put in the men's ears?
17. Who sang to Odysseus's ship?
18. What did Odysseus cry out to his men when he heard the sirens sing?
19. What did the men do when they heard a strange sound?
20. What did Odysseus tell the men as they went toward Scylla? Why?
21. What was Odysseus looking for?
22. What does Charybdis do?
23. What do the men see after Charybdis swallows water?
24. How many men does Scylla eat?
25. Where is the last place the men land?
26. What do the men eat that belongs to Helios?
27. Who punishes the men? How?
28. Where does Odysseus go (which is where we met him in Book 5)?

## Journal #27: How will YOU prepare?

As you reflect on the past 38 weeks of school, you have learned a lot about the Renaissance, Greek culture, the college and career research process, the GOAL setting process, SAT strategies, among many other subject. Preparing for the upcoming finals will test your stamina, focus, perseverance, and grit. How will you prepare for this course's final exam? What kind of specific strategies will you employ to ensure the best outcome possible (i.e. passing your exams?) How will your other classes differ in your means of preparation? Give at least 3 specific examples of what you will do to prepare accordingly. *At least one whole page.*