Odyssey Study Guide

Characters

**Human**

Odysseus – Son of Laertes, King of Ithaca, and main character in the Odyssey. The story follows him as he makes his voyage back to Ithaca.

Penelope – Wife to Odysseus and Queen of Ithaca. She waits 10 years for her husband to return home from the war.

Telemachus – Son of Odysseus and Penelope.

King Alcinous – King of Phaeacia, he treats Odysseus as an honored guest when he washes upon his island, and is audience to his gripping story of his adventure so far.

Eurylochus – A crew-member of Odysseus, who rebels against Odysseus and dines on lord Helios’ cattle with the crew.

Tiresias – Blind prophet in the Land of the Dead, who warned Odysseus not to eat Helios’ (the sun god) cattle.

Eumaeus – Odysseus’ swineherd who shelters him when he arrives on the shores of Ithaca.

Antinous – Supposed head of the suitors trying to marry Penelope, h

**Gods and Immortals**

Calypso – Sea nymph and captor of Odysseus, she has kept him captive on her island for 7 years. After an order from Mount Olympus, she has to let him go and she helps Odysseus fashion a raft to return home.

Zeus – King of the gods and ruler of Mount Olympus.
Athena – Goddess of wisdom and war, she helps Odysseus through his journey home to Ithaca starting by washing him to Phaeacia

Circe – A goddess capable of placing enchantments upon men, she turned Odysseus’ crew into pigs and held him captive for a year. She foretold Odysseus that what dangers he would face ahead

Cyclopes – A race of one-eyed giants whose island Odysseus sailed to in curiosity

Polyphemus – Cyclops son of Poseidon, god of the sea, he eats a total of 6 of Odysseus’ crew members when they get trapped in his cave, and, after getting his eye poked out by Nohbdy (Odysseus alter-ego) gets outsmarted by the crew and they escape

Poseidon – God of the sea and father of Polyphemus, he takes wrath on Odysseus for blinding his son and remains his enemy throughout the story

Aeolus – God of the winds who helped Odysseus by giving wrapping the unfavorable winds in a bag leaving the west wind to take them home. After they were blown back to Aeolus, he refused to help them a second time

Laestrygonians – Cannibalistic monsters that Odysseus comes across

Hermes – Messenger god that provides Odysseus with a magical herb to restore his men to human form

Sirens – A group of sea nymphs who sing a song to lure men in before they eat them

Scylla – A 6-headed monster that resides near Charybdis who kills 6 of Odysseus’ crew

Charybdis – Female whirlpool