Study Guide for the Odyssey Multiple Choice Quiz*

1. Invocation

In the Odyssey, the purpose of the invocation is to ask for inspiration and help from the gods. This means that when Odysseus is in a bind/trouble he will have someone to help him out. The invocation is also a pray to insure a safe homecoming.

2. Deaths in the Odyssey
   • The Laestrygonians destroying and eating 11 ships worth of men
   • The Cyclops eating another six men: two for breakfast, two for lunch, and two for dinner
   • Scylla eating six of Odysseus’s men
   • The mast killing the steersman
   • All the remaining of his men dying when the ship wrecked nearby Ithaca and his men drowned

3. Rescuing Odysseus

Athena finds Odysseus’s ship wreck and places Odysseus on the beach of Phecia to insure he would stay alive and not die. This is a place where the help from the gods occurs because of Odysseus praying in the invocation.

4. Juxtaposition

An example of juxtaposition of divine and supernatural is in the part of The Odyssey in which the Cyclops is milking his sheep and taking care of household duties which humans do as well. That is why this part is juxtaposition because both humans and non-humans are performing the same acts.

5. Similes (Cyclops).
   • “lay down like a mast among his sheep”
   • “rest the stone as one would cap a quiver”
   • “turning it as a shipwright turns a drill”

6. Epithets in part two
   • “Aelous god of the winds”
   • “the blind prophet Tiresias”
   • “Helios, lord of noon, who rides high heaven”
   • “gods in bliss forever”
   • “Zeus who drives the storm”

7. Odysseus’s tragic flaws
   • Curiosity
   • Doesn’t listen
   • Sleep

*Note. For the purpose of the extra credit assignment, the numbering of the study guide items corresponds to the numbering of the multiple choice items.
8. Sirens

As Odysseus’s ship is near the sirens he tells his men to put wax in their ears so they can’t hear and tie him to the mast of the ship so he can listen to the sirens. He orders his men to keep him tied up no matter how much he struggles:
- “tie me up, tight as a splint”

9. Scylla

As Odysseus found out that if he goes through Charybdis, all of his men would die and if he passed by Scylla, only six of his men would die, he had to decide whether to tell his men or not that they would pass by Scylla. He decided not to tell them because he was afraid that his men would drop their oars in panic or row the opposite way meaning that he would never get home.

10. Calypso Island

At the beginning of the Odyssey, Odysseus was stuck on Calypso Island for seven years because Calypso was in mad love with him and would not let him leave. But eventually she knew what she was doing was wrong so she helped him build a raft to get back home.

11. Argos

When Odysseus landed on Ithaca and had his disguise on, Argos, his dog, could still recognize him so he walked up to Odysseus wagged his tail, and died.

12. Trip home

The trip home was supposed to take two weeks but it took him ten years instead due to the gods’ constant interfering with his trip.

13. Odysseus fighting the Suitors

As Odysseus was on his way to his kingdom, he noticed there were many men in his home. Those were the suitors who wanted to marry his wife. Penelope had been delaying getting married to one of the suitors for many years because she believed Odysseus was still alive. She decided to have a contest for who would marry her. The contest was to bend and string Odysseus’s hunting bow and then shoot an arrow through 12 iron axe-helve sockets. Odysseus took part in the contest and was the only one who won. After he won, all the suitors were angry and began to fight Odysseus. During that fight, Odysseus killed Antinous. One of the suitors yelled: “Our finest lad is down! You killed the best on Ithaca.”

14. Themes in part IV

- Revenge
- Marital Fidelity

15. Loyalty

Argos and Penelope were the only ones portrayed to be loyal in The Odyssey because they waited years for Odysseus to get home and would not rest until he was home safely.