

## Introduction to *The Odyssey*

- I. Author - \_\_\_\_\_ a blind minstrel or bard.
- A. Wrote the two epics - \_\_\_\_\_
1. *The* \_\_\_\_\_: a war epic
  2. *The* \_\_\_\_\_: a long journey epic
- B. Written about \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. - told about events that happened in \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.
- C. Minstrel: an entertainer who told stories and sang songs. Also called a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, epic singer, or song stitcher. Both historian and entertainer.
1. \_\_\_\_\_ material from legends, epics, and myths already known.
  2. Used descriptions and phrases familiar to the audience called \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. "wing'd words," "rosy-fingered dawn," "grey-eyed Athena")
  3. Made stories as \_\_\_\_\_ as possible.
  4. Stories told \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Audiences never \_\_\_\_\_ of them.
- D. Homer outshone other minstrels of his day...
1. Because of his originality of \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Because of expression and the \_\_\_\_\_ he had on his audience.
- II. *The Iliad* tells of war between Greece and \_\_\_\_\_ (located in Asia Minor or the present day country of \_\_\_\_\_). It provides the background for *The* \_\_\_\_\_ and background on \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Lasted \_\_\_\_\_ long years
- B. Events of the Trojan War:
1. Possibly began because Greeks \_\_\_\_\_
  2. According to myth: \_\_\_\_\_, a prince of Troy, kidnapped \_\_\_\_\_, queen of \_\_\_\_\_ and wife of \_\_\_\_\_, king of Sparta (a Greek city-state).
  3. The Greek kings banded together and sent armies in \_\_\_\_\_ across the Aegean Sea to attack Troy. (Helen is known as "The face that launched a thousand ships")
  4. Gods and goddesses took sides in the war.
  5. For nine years there was no victory.
  6. Finally, Odysseus devised a plan: the \_\_\_\_\_
  7. The Greeks conquered \_\_\_\_\_; the Trojans were slaughtered and the city was destroyed.
  8. The Greeks set out for home in their ships.
  9. Many gods and goddesses were offended when Greeks \_\_\_\_\_ temples

and did not make \_\_\_\_\_.

III. **The *Odyssey*** - Epic poem of the \_\_\_\_\_. Greek audiences would have known the war story of the *Iliad* and been familiar with Odysseus as a hero from that story that came up with the idea that ended the war.

A. *The Odyssey* tells of many adventures of Odysseus trying to sail \_\_\_\_\_ after the Trojan War.

B. It took \_\_\_\_\_ years for him to sail home.

C. Main characters:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ulysses): super-human hero from Ithaca  
Greek name Roman name

2. \_\_\_\_\_: Odysseus' wife

3. \_\_\_\_\_: Odysseus' son

D. Primary gods and goddesses in the epic

1. \_\_\_\_\_: goddess of wisdom

2. \_\_\_\_\_: god of the sea

3. \_\_\_\_\_: king of the gods

IV. The \_\_\_\_\_

A. Oldest literary form or \_\_\_\_\_

B. Long \_\_\_\_\_ involving the following:

1. A great hero having \_\_\_\_\_ qualities

2. The gods and goddesses take an active part in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. \_\_\_\_\_ is Odysseus' enemy and \_\_\_\_\_ helps Odysseus).

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of an entire race of people is often \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ found their greatest glory in battle

5. Involves a struggle that \_\_\_\_\_

a. The hero embodies the \_\_\_\_\_ of their culture.

b. Greeks used *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* to teach Greek \_\_\_\_\_ and values.

6. Written in \_\_\_\_\_ style (formal)

7. Begins with \_\_\_\_\_ (prayer to the \_\_\_\_\_ of poetry)

a. muses: 9 daughters of \_\_\_\_\_ who were in charge of the arts

V. \_\_\_\_\_ and Roman mythology

A. \_\_\_\_\_: they believed in \_\_\_\_\_ gods

B. Gods had many \_\_\_\_\_ qualities

1. They were \_\_\_\_\_ (plot against someone)

2. They were \_\_\_\_\_ (fought)

C. Many of the gods lived on \_\_\_\_\_

- D. \_\_\_\_\_: the food of the gods
- E. \_\_\_\_\_: the drink of the gods
- F. Gods \_\_\_\_\_ in human affairs
- G. Gods were \_\_\_\_\_: they live forever

**VI. \_\_\_\_\_ values and beliefs**

- A. Greeks believed it was \_\_\_\_\_ for any man to have \_\_\_\_\_ (arrogance or excessive pride)
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a man was very important
  - 1. One important quality to have was \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ to both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ was the most important quality
- C. Man was not \_\_\_\_\_ of his own \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, he was like a "pawn in a chess game"
- D. Man could not control his own fate, but he could \_\_\_\_\_ how he \_\_\_\_\_ to the gods' \_\_\_\_\_ (how someone reacted was an important character quality).

**VII. Greek life during the \_\_\_\_\_ (1200 B.C.)**

- A. Era ruled by \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ life; \_\_\_\_\_ times
- C. Greece consisted of small \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_: Odysseus' home was an \_\_\_\_\_ city-state
  - 2. Athens (named after \_\_\_\_\_) was a larger city-state.

**VIII. The characteristics of an \_\_\_\_\_ Hero:**

- A. He possesses \_\_\_\_\_ abilities or qualities.
- B. He is charged with a \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. He is \_\_\_\_\_, often to prove the worthiness of himself and his quest.
- D. He receives \_\_\_\_\_ by divine beings along the way.
- E. He encounters numerous \_\_\_\_\_ beings, magical and helpful \_\_\_\_\_, and human helpers and companions.
- F. His travels take him to a \_\_\_\_\_ world, often one that normal human beings are barred from entering.
- G. He reaches a \_\_\_\_\_ where he nearly gives up his quest or appears defeated.
- H. He gains \_\_\_\_\_: this often takes the form of the hero regaining his rightful place.