

The Odyssey: Part I

Review

Troy

- location where Odysseus and his men fight for 10 years

Cicones

- 1st stop that Odysseus makes after leaving Troy
- Allies to Trojans
- Live on Ismarus
- Odysseus' men raid the island
- Odysseus loses 72 men who are killed by Cicones

Lotus Eaters

- Offer three of Odysseus' men the lotus flower, causing them to lose thoughts of home
- Odysseus has to drag men back to ship and tie them to the benches

Polyphemus

- Name of the cyclops in whose cave Odysseus and twelve of his men are trapped
- Son of Poseidon
- Eats six of Odysseus' men
- Is blinded by Odysseus and his men
- Curses Odysseus' journey home

Poseidon

- God of the sea
- Curses Odysseus' journey home after Odysseus blinds his son Polyphemus

Aeolus

- The wind king who lives on the island Aeolia
- Gives Odysseus a bag of storm winds to aid his journey home
- Refuses to help Odysseus the second time (after his men have opened the bag), assuming that the gods have cursed Odysseus

Laestrygones

- Cannibals who throw boulders at Odysseus' ships
- Destroy all but one of Odysseus' ships
- Leave Odysseus with a crew of only 45 men

Aeaea

- Island where Circe lives

Circe

- Goddess/enchantress/witch who lives on Aea
- Turns Odysseus' men into pigs
- Keeps Odysseus and his men for one year
- Later gives Odysseus advice regarding how to handle the Sirens, Scylla, and Charybdis
- Also warns Odysseus not to eat the sacred cattle of Helios

Eurylochus

- Odysseus' faithful crewmate who warns him that Circe has changed other men into pigs

Land of the Dead

- The Underworld realm of Hades
- Land where Odysseus seeks the advice of Tiresias
- Place where Odysseus meets his crewmate Elpenor and his mother Anticleia

Tiresias

- Blind prophet in the Land of the Dead who predicts Odysseus' future
- Warns Odysseus not to harm the sacred cattle of Helios at Thrinacia
- Tells Odysseus about the troubles that he will face on the remainder of his journey home
- Tells Odysseus of the troubles that he will face with suitors at his home

Elpenor

- One of Odysseus' men
- Dies after falling from Circe's roof when he is drunk
- Odysseus meets Elpenor in the Land of the Dead
- Requests that Odysseus return to give him a proper burial

Anticleia

- Name of Odysseus' mother
- Odysseus meets her in the Land of the Dead and learns of her death
- She shares information about his wife, son, and father

Sirens

- Beautiful but dangerous creatures who use their enchanting singing to lure sailors to crash their ships on the rocks
- Odysseus avoids the danger of the Sirens by covering his men's ears with beeswax and by having his men tie Odysseus to the mast of the ship so that he can hear the song without succumbing to the danger

Scylla

- Six-headed monster with twelve legs and three rows of fangs who lives in the rock cliffs
- She eats six of Odysseus' men, one for each head

Charybdis

- Giant whirlpool who spews out the sea three times a day and then sucks down the sea three times a day
- Odysseus avoids Charybdis completely in order to save his ship

Thrinacia

- The island where the sun god Helios lives
- Where the sacred cattle reside

Helios

- The sun god who lives on Thrinacia
- Owns sacred cattle about which Odysseus has been warned by both Tiresias and Circe

Calypso

- Nymph goddess who lives on Ogygia
- Keeps Odysseus for seven years
- Offers Odysseus immortality to stay

Ogygia

- Name of the island where Calypso lives

King Alcinous

- King of Phaeacia
- Offers Odysseus hospitality
- Listens to Odysseus' flashback story of his journey and troubles along the way

Hermes

- Messenger god
- Delivers message from Zeus to Calypso telling her to release Odysseus
- Gives Odysseus the moly plant to resist the charms of Circe

Athena

- Goddess of wisdom
- Favors Odysseus and appeals to her father Zeus to force Calypso to release Odysseus
- Protects both Odysseus and his son Telemachus

Zeus

- God of all gods
- Destroys Odysseus' final ship and kills the remainder of his men to appease Helios after Odysseus' men harm Helios' cattle

Ithaca

- Name of Odysseus' home island
- Odysseus is the king of Ithaca

Penelope

- Name of Odysseus' wife
- She waits for him at home in Ithaca
- She must deal with many suitors

Telemachus

- Name of Odysseus' son
- Leaves Ithaca in search of his father Odysseus

Laertes

- Name of Odysseus' father

Odysseus

- Epic Hero of *The Odyssey*
- “raider of lost cities”
- “a man skilled in all ways of contending”
- “the strategist”
- “son of Laertes”
- Allows his hubris and curiosity to interfere with his good judgment

Hubris

- Excessive pride or arrogance regarding one's own abilities
- People who are full of hubris often believe that they are greater than the gods or that they have god-like abilities
- Greeks believed that those who showed hubris should be punished

Hospitality

- Code of behavior for treating strangers and guests
- Requires host to attend to a guest's needs by providing food, shelter, rest, protection, etc., before asking questions about the guest's name or mission
- Follows the belief that all guests were sent by the gods or could be gods in disguise

