

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

The Odyssey Reading Guide

For each character, write down:

1. Who they are
2. What role they played in The Odyssey

Odysseus	Telemachus	Penelope
Eumaeus	Laertes	Eurycleia
Argos	Athena	Hermes
Poseidon	Helios	Phaeacians
Nausicaa	Menelaus	Eurylochus
Cyclops (Polyphemus)	Lotus Eaters	The Sirens
Scylla	Calypso	Circe

Teiresias	Ajax	Antinous
Alcinous	Charybdis	Agamemnon

For each of the following chapters, you need to know:

1. Major setting → Where does this book take place?
2. Plot events → What are the major things that happen?

Book 1	Book 4
Book 5	Book 6
Book 8	Book 9
Book 10	Book 11
Book 12	Book 16

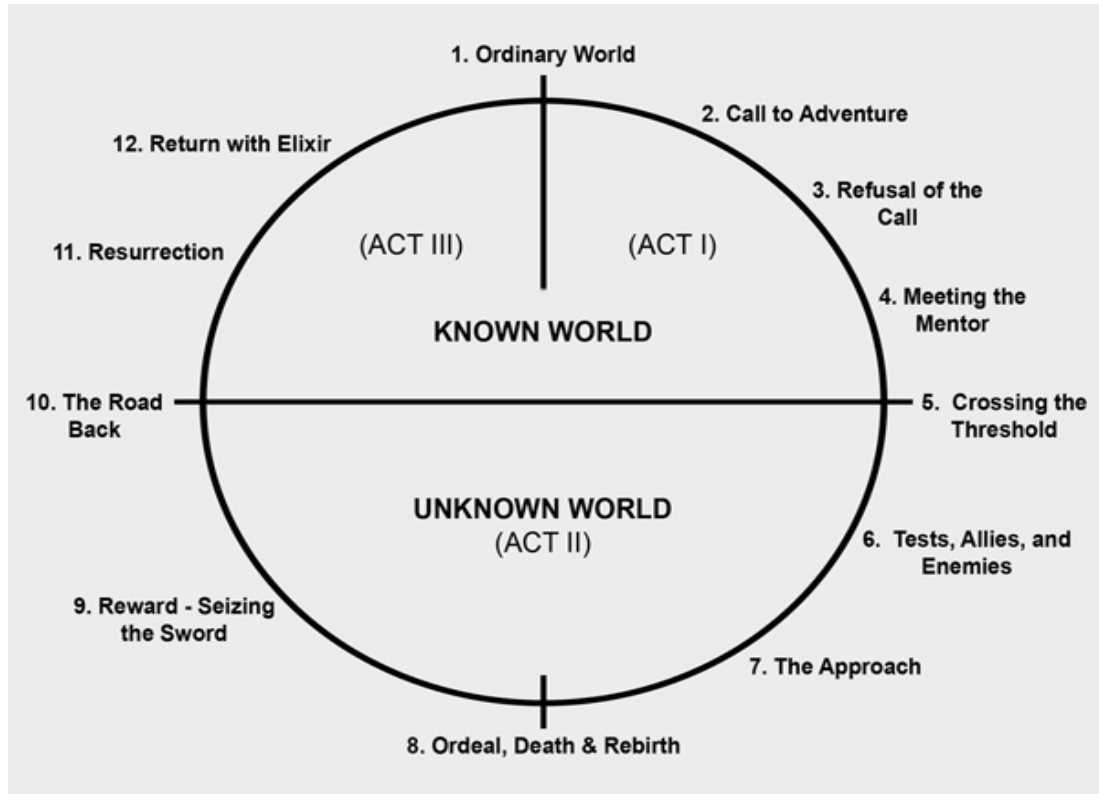
Book 17	Book 21
Book 22	Book 23

For the following literary terms:

1. Provide a definition.
2. Give an example from the text.

Homeric Simile	Epithet
Dramatic Irony	Surprise/Disguise Motif
Catharsis	Hamartia
Hubris	Peripeteia

Define each part of the hero cycle:



Explain the meaning of each of the following symbols:

Omens	Linens
Odysseus' Bow	Argos
Odysseus' Bed	Home
The Sea	Penelope's Tapestry

Laws of Hospitality in Greek Tradition

What is the ancient Greek Law of Hospitality?

Explain the following components of the Law of Hospitality:

Xenia	
Tabula Hospitalis	
Tessera	

Essay Potential

Know how to respond to these essay questions! For each question, please provide an extended paragraph response with all appropriate components.

1. How does the theme of vengeance work in the epic? Approach it from the points of view of Telemachus and Poseidon, as well as Odysseus.
2. As an epic hero, Odysseus possesses many exemplary qualities. List and explain how they benefit him. What are his less admirable characteristics and how do these qualities cause him harm?
3. Compare and contrast the society of the Phaeacians with the lifestyle of the Cyclops and explain how these two societies represent the theme of hospitality. Then discuss the significance of hospitality to Homeric Greeks.

Remember:

Extended Paragraph Response Guidelines:

→ **Topic Sentence** (with the title, the author, and the topic you are addressing in the paragraph). The best topic sentences will be complex sentences with a dependent and independent clause.

→ **Elaboration**. In this part, you need to elaborate on the topic at hand.

→ **Textual Support**. This needs to be a direct quote from the text. You need to introduce the quote and include quotations. After the quote, I expect MLA in-text citations: (Homer #).

→ **Explanation**. Remember never to leave a quote hanging. You need to explain how that quote supports your topic sentence.

→ **Tie back to the Topic Sentence**. Be sure to tie back to the topic sentence by stating it in a new way at the end of your paragraph.