

The Odyssey Study Guide

Pages: 951-987

Part 1 Write only the answers for the following questions.

“The Adventures of Odysseus” and “Sailing from Troy” pp. 951-955

1. Where is Odysseus journeying?
2. Who kept Odysseus prisoner?
(2 people)
3. How does Odysseus justify his years with Calypso and Circe?
4. Why do Odysseus’ men disobey orders to leave the Cicones?
5. What happens to the crew members who eat the Lotus?
6. How does Odysseus treat the crew members who eat the Lotus?

“The Cyclops” pp. 956-968

7. How does Odysseus characterize (describe) the Cyclopes? (3 adjectives)
8. How do the Cyclopes get food?

Name _____
Date _____ Hr. _____

9. Why does Odysseus tell the Cyclops (Polyphemus) that he and his men are the only survivors of a shipwreck?
10. Why doesn’ t Odysseus kill the Cyclops while he is asleep?
11. A pun is when one word is used to replace another that sounds similar but has a different meaning. Explain Odysseus’ pun and its importance in his escape:
12. In lines 366-370, what does Polyphemus hope?
13. Contrast the attitudes of Odysseus and his men:
Odysseus: _____ The men: _____
14. How does Polyphemus know where to throw the mountaintop?

15. Why does Polyphemus choose to pray to Poseidon?

16. For what three things does Polyphemus pray?

“The Land of the Dead” pp. 969–974

17. What does Circe say that Odysseus must do in order to reach home?

18. Whom is Odysseus trying to summon by making sacrifices?

19. According to Tiresias, what will Odysseus find when he returns home?

“The Sirens” pp. 975–978

20. Why are Sirens dangerous?

21. Why does Circe tell Odysseus to steer toward Scylla instead of Charybdis?

22. Why does Odysseus apply the wax to the men’s ears *himself*?

23. How is Odysseus able to hear the Sirens’ singing and survive?

“Scylla and Charybdis” pp. 978–980

24. What demand does Odysseus make of his men as they approach the rough waters?

25. What does Scylla look like?

26. What is Charybdis?

“The Cattle of the Sun God” pp. 980–987

27. Who owns the heifers and sheep on the island?

28. Who persuades the crew to kill Helios’ cattle?

29. What do Odysseus’ shipmates do while he is sleeping?

30. How is Odysseus’ ship destroyed?