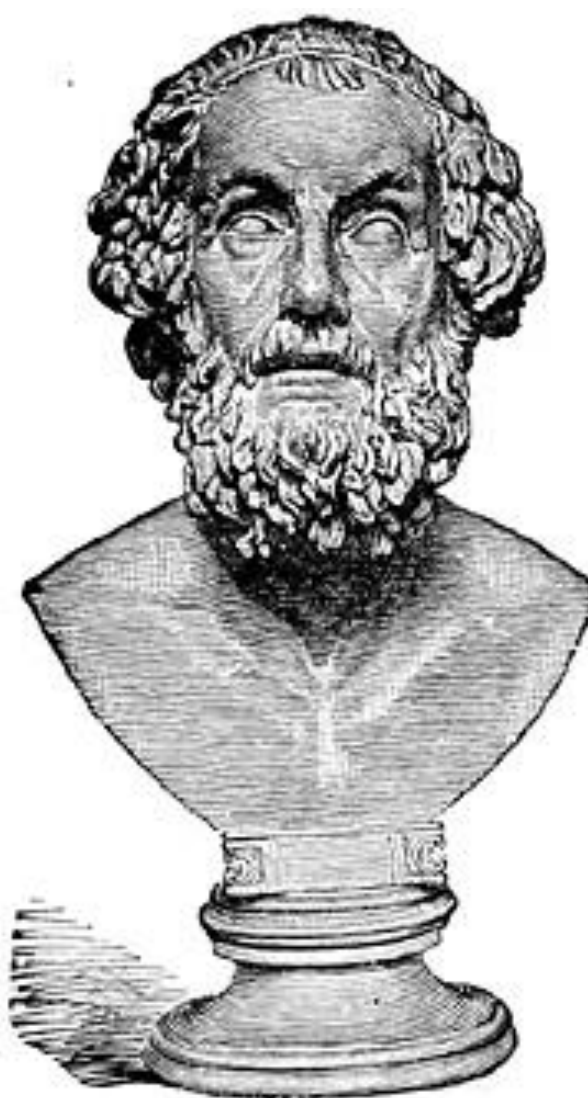


THE ODYSSEY

BOOK I



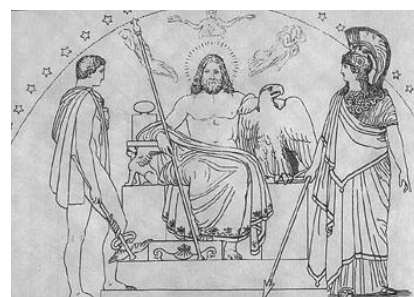
Quick and Efficient Review

ODYSSEY I

After you have read the Fitzgerald version and the synopsis of Book I of the Odyssey, answer the questions that follow the synopsis.

Homer says at the beginning of Book I that the *Odyssey* will tell the story of Odysseus' adventures on his way home from Troy. He alludes to Odysseus' men killing and eating the cattle of the sun god, a story that is told in full later on. He mentions Kalypso, a nymph who detains Odysseus on her island although he is ready to return to his island home of Ithaka. He says that it is the sea god, Poseidon, who has prevented Odysseus' safe passage home.

Next is a conversation between Athena, goddess of wisdom, and Zeus, king of the gods and Athena's father. They are bemoaning the fact that mortals do not listen to their advice. Zeus tells Athena of Agamemnon's return from Troy. Agamemnon was the commander in chief of the Greek expedition to bring Helen, his brother's wife, home from Troy. When Agamemnon returned from the war, his wife's new lover, Aigisthos, killed him even though Hermes had warned Aigisthos that his own death would follow Agamemnon's. Orestes, Agamemnon's son, fulfilled the prophecy.



Athena reminds her father that Odysseus has not yet returned from the war, and Zeus states that it is Poseidon, angry at Odysseus' wounding of Polyphemos, Poseidon's Cyclops son, who is preventing Odysseus' return. Zeus states that it is time for Poseidon to put aside his quarrel with Odysseus. Athena suggests that Zeus send Hermes to Kalypso with a message that she must release Odysseus.

Athena disguises herself as a sea captain, Mentos, and goes to Odysseus' home on Ithaka to speak with Telemakhos, Odysseus' son. Odysseus' house has been overrun with suitors, the men who are wishing to marry Odysseus' wife, Penelope. Telemakhos welcomes his guest, and while the suitors listen to Phemios, the poet, Telemakhos and Athena converse. The crux of this conversation is that Athena tells Telemakhos that the suitors should leave, that he should go abroad to Pylos and Sparta to gather news of Odysseus, and that he should plan how to get rid of the suitors once and for all once he has returned. She uses Orestes as a role model for Telemakhos. When Athena leaves, Telemakhos realizes that he has been visited by a god.

Telemakhos joins the suitors, and when Penelope interrupts Phemios to suggest that he sing of something other than the return of the Greeks from Troy, he tells his mother that she is not the only woman whose husband did not come back. Penelope goes to her room, weeps for Odysseus, and Athena brings sleep to her.

After Penelope departs, Telemakhos tells the suitors to leave, and the suitors are surprised that he is so bold. Antinoos, a suitor, chides him, but Eurymakhos, another suitor, encourages him. Eurymakhos asks Telemakhos about the visitor, and Telemakhos does not reveal that his guest was one of the immortals. Eventually the suitors go to their own houses. Eurykleia, a faithful servant, accompanies Telemakhos upstairs as he gets ready for bed. He thinks all night about Athena's words.

NOTE: *When Homer refers to Argives and Danaans, he means the Greeks.
When he speaks of Argos and Hellas, he is referring to the country of Greece.*

Quick and Efficient Review (continued)

Questions about Gods and Goddesses

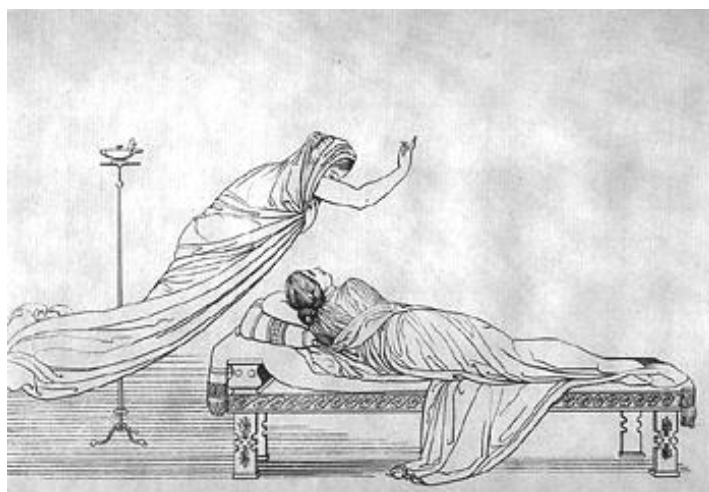
1. What does Athena suggest to Zeus that Hermes should do? _____

2. How does Athena disguise herself? _____

3. Which god hates Odysseus? _____
4. Why does this god hate him? _____

5. Which god did Odysseus' men anger? _____
6. How did they anger him? _____

7. Which god tells the story of the murder of Aigisthos? _____
8. What is the relationship between Athena and Zeus? _____
9. Who brings sleep to Penelope? _____
10. Who tells Telemakhos that he should go to Pylos and Sparta? _____

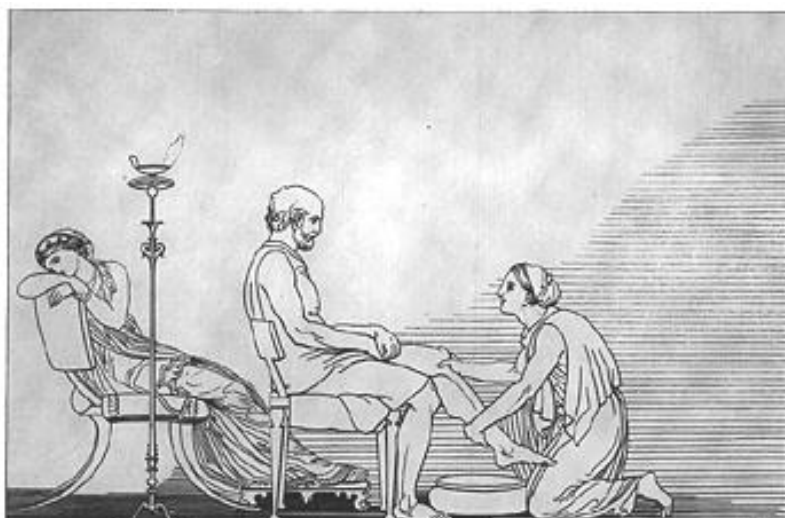


Quick and Efficient Review (continued)

Questions about Mortals

11. What nymph is holding Odysseus against his will? _____
12. On what island is she holding him? _____
13. What is Odysseus' final destination? _____
14. How are Agamemnon and Orestes related? _____
15. Whom does Hermes warn not to commit a murder? _____
16. Whom does Athena suggest that Telemakhos emulate? _____
17. Whom is Telemakhos supposed to visit in Sparta? _____
18. Why should he visit him? _____

19. How are Penelope and Telemakhos related? _____
20. How are Penelope and Odysseus related? _____
21. What is Phemios' job? _____
22. Who is Lord Laertes? _____
23. Who are plundering Odysseus' home while he is away? _____
24. Who tells Telemakhos that he is not fit to be the next king of Ithaka? _____
25. Who has been a servant to Laertes, Odysseus, and Telemakhos? _____



Epithets

Homer uses epithets to characterize the gods. An epithet becomes almost a part of the god's name, somewhat like a title. An epithet is often used in place of the god's real name. Argeiphontes is an epithet used frequently with Hermes' name; it means "slayer of Argus." In Book I, Homer also calls Athena "Pallas Athena," the origin of which is either (1) Athena's friend, Pallas, whom Athena killed during an argument or (2) the word *pallas* itself which means "maiden." Homer consistently refers to Zeus as "summoner of cloud."



List eight of your friends and characterize them with an epithet. If a perfect word does not already exist, you may make up new words by combining parts of other words so that the characterization is exact. Explain why you have chosen the particular epithet for each friend. If you wish, you may include yourself in your list.

1. _____
Reason _____
2. _____
Reason _____
3. _____
Reason _____
4. _____
Reason _____
5. _____
Reason _____
6. _____
Reason _____
7. _____
Reason _____
8. _____
Reason _____

Quotes from Book I of *The Odyssey*

In the blank, write the name of the speaker of each quote. Select from the following choices.

Antinoos

Eurymakhos

Penelope

Athena

Hermes

Telemakhos

Athena (Mentes)

Zeus

1. _____ "Greetings, stranger! Welcome to our feast."
2. _____ "Well, I will forecast for you, as the gods put the strong feeling in me – I see it all, and I'm no prophet, no adept in bird signs."
3. _____ "Go feasting elsewhere, consume your own stores."
4. _____ "Don't kill the man, don't touch his wife, or face a reckoning with Orestes the day he comes of age and wants his patrimony."
5. _____ "Talk to that noble sage at Pylos, Nestor, then go to Menelaos, the red-haired king at Sparta, last man home of all the Akhaians."
6. _____ "Odysseus was not the only one at Troy never to know the day of his homecoming."
7. _____ "But keep your property, and rule your house, and let no man, against your will, make havoc of your possessions, while there's life on Ithaka."
8. _____ "But my own heart is broken for Odysseus, the master mind of war, so long a castaway upon an island in the running sea . . ."
9. _____ "Poseidon must relent, for being quarrelsome will get him nowhere, one god, flouting the will of all the gods."
10. _____ "Far and near friends knew this house; for he whose home it was had much acquaintance in the world."



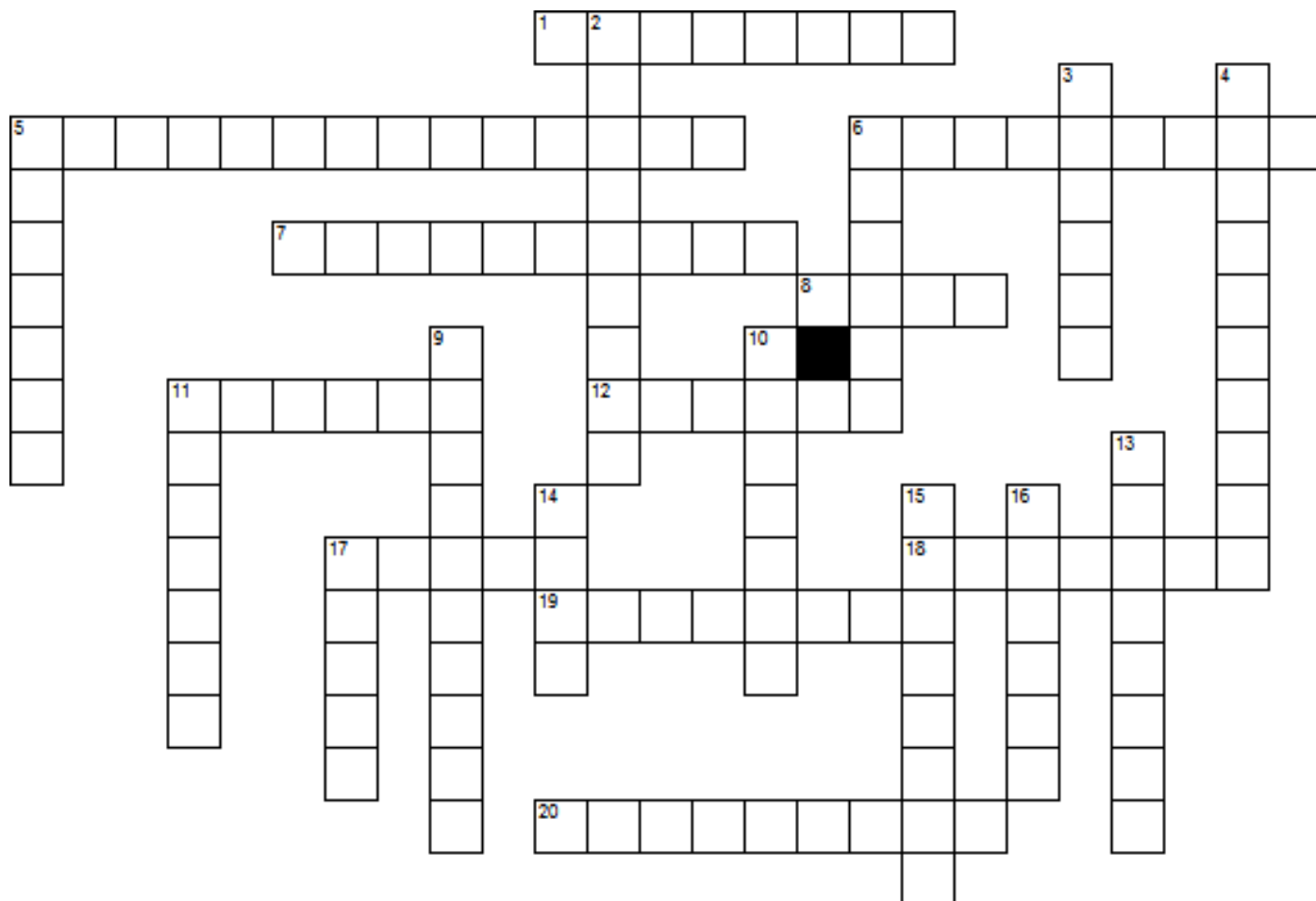
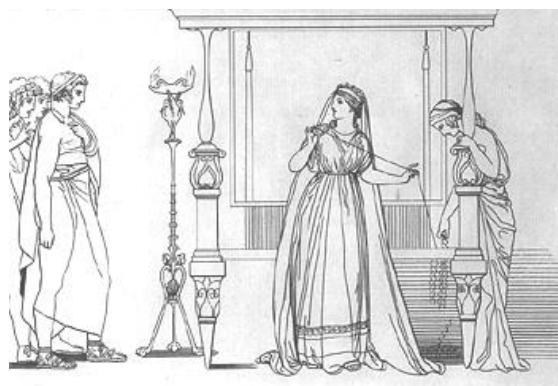
Quotes from Book I of *The Odyssey* (continued)

11. _____ "Mentes I'm called, son of the veteran Ankhialos; I rule seafaring Taphos."
12. _____ "I wish at least I had some happy man as father, growing old in his own house . . ."
13. _____ "Zeus forbid you should be king in Ithaka, though you are eligible as your father's son."
14. _____ "How arrogant they seem, these gluttons, making free here in your house! A sensible man would blush to be among them."
15. _____ "Meanwhile they eat their way through all we have, and when they will, they can demolish me."
16. _____ "But sing no more this bitter tale that wears my heart away."
17. _____ "High time he came back to engage these upstarts."
18. _____ "Greed and folly double the suffering in the lot of man."
19. _____ "For my part, I shall visit Ithaka to put more courage in the son, and rouse him to call an assembly of the islanders . . ."
20. _____ "Years back, my family and yours were friends, as Lord Laertes knows . . ."



Odyssey Crossword

Complete the crossword using the clues on the next page.



Odyssey Crossword

Clues

Across

1. Patient wife of Odysseus
5. Places where Athena suggested that there might be information about Odysseus (three words)
6. The commander in chief of the Greek expedition
7. Suitor who was sympathetic to Telemakhos
8. The deity with whom Athena held a lengthy conversation
11. The animals which Odysseus' men should not have killed
12. Odysseus' island home
17. The poet credited with writing the Odyssey
18. The man who avenged Agamemnon's death
19. The father of Telemakhos
20. The man who murdered Agamemnon

Down

2. Servant in Odysseus' house for a very long time
3. The deity who carried messages
4. A son of Poseidon
5. Harper who sang of the Trojan War
6. The goddess who protected Odysseus, Penelope, and Telemakhos
9. Person who planned to search for Odysseus
10. The nymph who kept Odysseus on her island
11. A one-eyed monster
13. Suitor who was unsympathetic to Telemakhos
14. The location of the war fought over Helen
15. The deity whom Odysseus angered
16. Person whose form Athena assumed
17. The woman over whom the Trojan War was fought

