

Name _____
Jolly/English

Study Guide for The Odyssey (Fitzgerald translation)

Asterisks indicate names of more than routine importance. Some names are not listed or are crossed out; these you will not be held responsible for. But you must be able to identify all listed names.

Book I	<u>Humans</u>	<u>Place Names</u>	<u>Gods & supernaturals</u>
	Odysseus*	Ithaka*	Helios*
	Aigisthos	Olympos*	Zeus*
	Agamemnon*	Troy*	Kalypso*
	Orestes	Ogygia*	Poseidon*
	Mentes*	Sparta	Hermes
	Telemakhos*	Pylos	Athena*
	Laertes*	Argos	Polyphemos*
	The Akhians	Hellas	
	Nestor*		
	Menelaos		
	Penelope*		
	Antinoos*		
	Eurymakhos		
	Eurykleia		

Reading guide questions: Read these over before you read the text. Read them again after you've read. You can check to see if you've understood the reading this way. You need to write short responses on this sheet. You do not need to write complete sentences.

1. What qualities of mind & character possessed by Odysseus are shown in the first 20 or so lines?
2. What god is his special enemy? Which is his special friend?
3. Note the first speech of Zeus. What ideas does he express about humans' flaws? Which homecoming does he use to illustrate his ideas?
4. Consider the process of this meeting amongst the gods. What traces of democratic ideals do you see?
5. Why does Athena go to Ithaka? What does she find there?
6. Note what Book I tells you about the items listed below and add to your information about them as you read subsequent books:
 - a. food habits & feasting
 - b. religious ceremonies
 - c. treatment of guests and rites of hospitality
 - d. the position of the poet/troubadour in society at that time
7. In what way is Telemakhos changed by his contact with Athena? What advice does she give him?
8. What are the suitors trying to do? What are the traits of those villains like Antinoos and Eurymakhos?
9. Why is such emphasis placed upon the homecoming of Agamemnon and the revenge of Orestes?
10. What do you notice about the position of a woman in a Greek household of this time? Note especially Penelope & Eurykleia in this book.