

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Jolly/English

Study Guide for The Odyssey (Fitzgerald translation)

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

<b>Book X</b>	<u>Humans</u>	<u>Place Names</u>	<u>Gods &amp; supernaturals</u>
	Antiphatês	Lamos	Aiolos Hippotadês
	Laistrygonians	Aiaia*	Kirkê
	Eurylokhos		Persephone
	Elpenor*		Teirêsias

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. Jot down notes for reference for each question; complete sentences are not required.

1. Odysseus stays a full month to tell Aiolos his tale. What does this tell us about him? What great gift does Aiolos give him in return?
2. How is Odysseus received upon returning to Aiolos' island? What is Aiolos' reason for this reception?
3. Some commentators on have felt that the Laistrygones episode is based in a Greek exploration that reached the Arctic Circle. What evidence is there to support this hypothesis? Note lines 92-102.
4. Why do you suppose Odysseus didn't go himself to meet the Laistrygonês? (Remember the island of the Kyklopês.)
5. In what way might we say that this episode was the most disastrous for Odysseus' crew?
6. Kirkê is a goddess. Gods & goddesses are always deities of some special area or sphere of power (such as Zeus = sky, Athena = wisdom, Poseidon = seas & earthquakes). What would you judge Kirkê to be associated with? Note also that there are things she has in common with others we've met, such as Kalypso.
7. Odysseus' relations with Eurylokhos show some important qualities in Odysseus. What are these qualities?
8. Examine the part played by Hermês in this episode. Does this show O as a puppet of the gods?
9. Does Kirke seem malignant? Explain your answer. Who might find her story appealing?
10. What similarities & differences are there between Odysseus' relationships with Kirke and Kalypso?
11. Kirke tells O that before he goes home to Ithaka, he must go down to Hades. For what purpose? Where is he to find Hades or Erebus?
12. Note the rites that O must perform in order to summon the dead.