

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 IX</b>	<u>Humans</u>	<u>Place Names</u>	<u>Gods &amp; supernaturals</u>
	Kikonês	Land of the Lotos Eaters	Aiolos
	Telemos		Polyphemus

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. What is hubris? Look it up & note the definition. How do we begin to see it emerging in the episode with the Kikonês? How do we see it toward the end of this book – in the departure from the island of the Kyklopês?
2. Count the passage of time from being driven from the battle with the Kikonês to landfall at the Land of the Lotos Eaters. How long has it been?
3. What happens in the Land of the Lotos Eaters? How does Odysseus' loyalty to his soldiers show?
4. Where do Odysseus and his men land near the Kyklopês? What do they eat, and what Greek tradition do they fail to follow? (it's expected of all Greeks before feasting)
6. Notice lines 188-9 & 229-231. What possible criteria for civilized beings does he seem to have?
7. Why does Odysseus not leave the cave when his men urge him to? Two reasons – note lines 248-9 & 288-293.
8. Why does Odysseus not kill the Kyklops when he first has the chance?
9. What other mythic story resembles the episode of Odysseus & Polyphemus? (An Old Testament tale about a small man defeating a much larger foe)
10. How is Polyphemus' prayer to his father (lines 576-585) prophetic?