

review for english test

terms

1) In medias res- a narrative which begins from the middle goes to the beginning then ends

2) Homeric epithet- the author uses a person's description as his name (ex. grey eyed goddess as athena)

3) Invocation of the Muse- muse is the goddess of inspiration whom homer calls upon to help him tell this story

Cast of characters by order of appearance:

(Ogygia) Kalypso - a nymph( an immortal being who isn't a god but isn't a human) who is the daughter of atlas

Odysseus - the main character in our story (if you don't know who he is you're screwed) who is trying to get home but cannot because poseidon is mad with him.

his main character flaw is arrogance

hails from ithaka

Poseidon - god of the sea who is mad at odysseus for blinding his daughter polyphemos the cyclops and cannot kill him but can prevent him from getting home

Zeus- the king of gods he allows athena to enact a plan to allow odysseus to return to his native island of ithaka

Aegisthos- he was the only man in mycenae as he was coward and hid instead of going to fight in troy

stole agamemnon's (the king of mycenae) wife and then proceeded to kill him and usurp his throne upon his arrival in mycenae after the trojan war

was later killed by orestes (see orestes)

Hermes - messenger of the gods who helps odysseus escape and also warns agisthos not to kill agamemnon and his wife clytemnestra

Orestes - agamemnon's son who kills aegisthus to avenge his father and takes the throne

Athena - goddess of wisdom and war who proposes a plan to zeus to help odysseus return helps Telemakhos (see telemakhos) withstand the suitors who are raiding the castle for food and are trying to marry the queen (and odysseus' wife) penelope

Atlas - the god who holds the earth up  
father of kalypso (see kalypso)

Polyphemos- a cyclops who is the son of poseidon who was blinded by odysseus

Mentes- a friend of odysseus who athena disguises as to gain access to the castle

Telemakhos- son of odysseus (see odysseus) who cannot fend off the suitors who are raiding the castle in hopes of marrying penelope

Phemios- an Ithacan poet who performs narrative songs in the house of the absent Odysseus. His audience is made up largely of the suitors, who live in the house while attempting to persuade Penelope to marry one of them.

Laertes- odysseus' (see odysseus) father  
Nestor (Pylos)- king of pylos

Menelaus (Sparta) line 330- king of sparta, fought in the trojan war, athena sends telemakhos to him so that menelaus can help him

Penelope line 379 odysseus' wife who stays faithful to him as many suitors try to marry her

Antinoos line 433- a suitor of penelope who suggests that telemakhos can't become king

Eurymakhos line 450-

Eurykleia- telemakhos' nurse who truly cared about him

## Book I

### Athena's advice p. 10

to call an assembly, to make the suitors leave, then go travel to pylos and then to go to sparta to hear any news from menelaos and maybe he will hear a rumor of the whereabouts of his father the meeting

### The meeting at dinner p. 13-14

antinoos mentions that telemakhos shouldn't be king

telemakhos replies that he would be king if zeus allowed it. he also mentions that he should keep his properties and slaves that his father won for him once he dies

Eurymakhos says that he will keep his properties  
 he goes on to inquire about who the stranger (athena who visits disguised as a traveller) is  
 telemakhos responds that he believes that it was mentor who was a friend of odysseus  
 however he knows that the visitor was an immortal being

## Book II

The assembly pg 20-28

telemakhos' complaint pg. 20-21

people are raiding his house

suitors are coming even though penelope said she didn't want suitors

Antonoos' response pg 21-22

are you trying to shame us ( the suitors)

it is because of your mother's tricks

Penelope's trick

she said that she would take a suitor when she finishes weaving

her

cloth for her father to be wrapped in

every night she would unravel the cloth so that she would never

finish

have your mother marry someone and we'll leave

Telemakhos' response

he can't force his mother to do anything

her father would fault him for his father's death

everyone should leave our house until news of his father is definite

Zeus' sign

eagles came and hurt all of the suitors

The omen explained

odysseus is coming back and he will kill the suitors

Eurymakhos' retort

this is not a sign

there are a lot of birds and it doesn't mean anything  
 telemakhos should send penelope to her father's house to remarry

her

### Telemakhos' next request

a ship and 20 people to go out and try to find odysseus

Mentor's rebuke

it is wrong that people are plundering

Another suitor speaks up

they wouldn't risk their lives for dinner

odysseus could drive them out but not kill them all

### The suitors' take on Telemakhos' trip

they volunteer a few people to help send away telemakhos that were his father's friends

### Eurykleia's concern

she is scared for his safety as he is about to travel around the world

the suitors will plot against you and kill you upon your return

### telemakhos' reply

there is a god(dess) behind this plan

she shouldn't tell his mother

## Book V

### Athena returns to Zeus and Olympos

athena complains that odysseus is still stuck and the suitors are planning to kill telemakhos

zeus answers that she could protect telemakhos and help odysseus

### Hermes' mission

hermes goes to ogygia and commands kalypso to let him go

Odysseus

crying for home

### Kalypso's lament

complains about how the gods are feminists and only care when a goddess (or in the case a nymph) lays with a man and they don't care when a god lays with a woman  
 she goes on and complains about how she saved him so she deserves him  
 however she cannot go against what zeus wants so she lets him go

### Hermes finds Odysseus

when he finds him he tells him that he can go now  
 he told him to make a raft and he will give him bread wine and clothing  
 he will let him get home with no more harm

### Kalypso lets him go

she smiled and swore that she had no more tricks against him  
 she once again offers him immortality and the ability to stay with her  
 she asks why his wife is better than her

### Odysseus' lack of trust

he wonders how he will cross the ocean on a raft and why she waited so long

### Odysseus' lament

he still longs for home and homes to get there

### Poseidon finds Odysseus

he sees him and knows that he cannot stop him but can delay him and give him a tough time  
 he creates storms in the ocean that give odysseus a hard time

### Odysseus is found

a girl named ino finds him and wonders what grudge poseidon has against him  
 she helps him ashore and gives him new clothing  
 she gives him a veil that is immortal that will shield him when he travels and makes him  
 promise that he will discard it once he arrives home

### Odysseus leaves the island

he thinks that this is a trick and decides to take the raft until it breaks  
 however poseidon sent another wave that completely destroyed his boat  
 he then took of kalypso's cloak and put on the veil then he started swimming there

### Athena helps again

she sends him to the island of phaiakians (skheria)

after struggling with the waves he almost drowns but athena possesses him and saves him

## Odysseus on skheria

once he lands ashore he disposes of the veil

# Book VI

## Athena meets the princess

Athena enters the city of the Phaiakians and finds Nausikaa, beautiful daughter of the Alkinous the king.

Athena convinces Nausikaa to wash her clothes and prepare as if for a wedding.

Nausikaa takes her clothes, and her maids, down to the washing pool where they do laundry and some swimming.

## Odysseus awakens

When Odysseus wakes, he finds the girls. All, except Nausikaa, are frightened and run away.

odysseus greets nausika and asks f she is a mortal or an immortal being

he then compliments her looks and ask for clothing

nausikaa promises him food, clothing, drink.

she then introduces herself as the daughter of alkinoos (the king of the island)

she then calls to the maids and tells them that he is not an enemy

## Odysseus meets her father

after odysseus eats and bathes nausikaa offers to bring him to her father

The maids are soon convinced of this virtue and bathe and lavish him with much attention.

Nausikaa wants to take Odysseus home and asks him to follow her and to meet at her father's home later.

odysseus tells the girls to go back and then he will make his own way to the palace

the girls instruct odysseus to wait in the garden outside the city walls which is in earshot of the palace

he can ask anyone to help him find the palace as it is the grandest building in the city

Odysseus prays to Athena to find love and mercy among the Phaiakians.

# Book VII

Odysseus waits until Nausikaa and her maids are out of sight before entering the city of the Phaiakians.

Athena surrounds him with a sea fog to help him pass unnoticed into the city.

After entering the city, Odysseus (the mist disappears) asks the king and queen to help him return to Ithaka.

Alkinoos is reminded by an oracle that he will have a guest who must be treated hospitably.

Odysseus is given a meal, and Alkinoos admits that he has a god-like appearance. He will help Odysseus get home the next day.

Odysseus tells him how he made it to Ogygia after Zeus destroyed his ship.

Odysseus praises Zeus for helping him return

# Book VIII

**Alkinoos' benevolence 28-49**

he commands people to build a boat for Odysseus

**Demodokos 68-70**

minstrel of the Phaiakians

**His song 78-95**

sings about the Trojan war

Odysseus begins to cry

Alkinoos notices Odysseus crying

**Alkinoos calls for a sporting event**

he wants Odysseus to go home and tell everyone how good they are at sports

**Seareach- an athlete who is very strong and is confident in himself**

**Laodamas' challenge 141-159**

challenges Odysseus to compete in the competition

**Odysseus' response 160-165**

he does not want to think about track and field after all of his struggles

**Another challenge by Seareach 166-173**

he taunted him saying that he isn't agreeing to because he cannot

**Odysseus' second response 174-204**

he responds that the taunting isn't necessary and he picks up a discus and throws it further than anyone else

### Odysseus' boast 233-235

he then states all of his talents from archery to wrestling  
however he does admit that he is not a good runner

### Story of Hephaistos 280-393

Hephaistos was a god who was born very ugly and was rejected by his mother and thrown down a hill

he was rescued by another goddess who raised him

he had very good hands

he made beautiful jewelry to thank his "adopted mother"

when his real mother found out she apologized to him and gave him aphrodite ( the goddess of beauty who was very beautiful) as a wife

aphrodite cheated on him and had relations with the much better looking ares (her brother and the god of war)

as helios (the sun god) flew over the sky he caught them

he reported this to Hephaistos

Hephaistos then made a chain that was so thin that even the gods couldn't see it and was so strong that even the gods couldn't escape it

when Hephaistos left they had relations again helios saw that they were trapped he reported it to Hephaistos who publicized it

(apollo retorts to hermes that it might actually be worth it to be trapped for eternity with the most beautiful goddess)

### odysseus receives gifts from everyone

sereach gives him a bronze and silver sword which is very expensive

odysseus says that he hopes nothing ever befalls this island that they would ever need that sword

### Honor to poets 512-514

thanks the muse for entertainment

### Domodokos' song of Troy 535-559

domodokos is asked to sing the story of the trojan horse

### Odysseus' response 560-565

odysseus once again started crying

### Alkinoos' request 575-end

he wants to know who Odysseus is

he also wants to know about why he gets so emotional over the story of troy



# Book IX

## Odysseus identifies himself

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he reveals himself first as laertes son then as Odysseus

he reveals that he hails from ithaka

he then goes on to explain that he was captured by kalypso on the island of ogygia

## He was not unfaithful

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he explains that although he slept with the nymph kalypso he was still faithful in his heart as it was impossible for him to say no to her

## Kikones – defeat and loss of men

first he successfully raided it

however his men stayed on the island and ate and ate and ate until

eventually an army was gathered that was able to kick them out and kill a few of them

## Lotus Eaters

they landed there to eat lunch and then they were approached by the lotos eaters

who offered them the lotos

however whoever ate it wanted to stay there forever so he tied the people who ate it to the boat and left

## Cyclops

they landed on the island where the cyclops lived and he offered them food and wine

afterwards he went to graze the sheep and he and his men went about eating all

the cyclops had

when the cyclops came back he asked who they were

odysseus said that he thought he wouldn't mind because of the tradition of hospitality that there was in greece

odysseus offered him wine which made him drowsy and fall asleep

once he fell asleep odysseus stabbed his eye blinding him

polyphemos then trapped them in the cave with his sheep

to escape odysseus tied his men to beneath the sheep and when the kyklops

allowed the sheep to go out to graze his men escaped underneath

polyphemus then prayed to poseidon his father to make sure that odysseus had a hard time getting home

Odysseus' hubris (pride) 550

this is his character flaw and if he didn't tell polyphemus his name he would have gotten home much more easily

## Book X

### 1. Aiolos – wind god (near Ithaca)

#### a) The bag of wind 20-25

- I. this is to ensure that if there are bad winds they can get back on track

#### b) Men's greed 49-50

- I. the men were able to see the fire on Ithaca
- II. the men wondered assumed that the bag of wind was a bag of riches
- III. they wondered why Odysseus should return with loot but they should return empty handed
- IV. they opened the bag while Odysseus was sleeping to take some of the riches
- V. the winds inside blew them all the way back to the island where Aiolos was

#### c) Aiolos' anger 83-84

- I. he was angry at the men for using it incorrectly and didn't give them another one
- II. he said the voyage must have been cursed

### 2. Laestrygonians – cannibals – all ships but Odysseus' sunk

- a) Odysseus sent 3 men to find out who was on the island
- b) one of them was killed and eaten and the other 2 made their way back to the ships
- c) all the Laestrygonians came out to try to eat them
- d) they lead the Laestrygonians right to their ships
- e) they destroyed every ship but Odysseus' and killed everyone and Odysseus urged his men to leave as fast as possible

### 3. Circe (Kirke) – Aiaia

- a) Half the men sent to scout under Eurylokhos
- b) He returns with a strange tale
  - I. they all ate from the potion of the wotch who seduced many other men and turned them into pigs
- c) Hermes gives Odysseus a magic herb
  - I. this will allow him to resist the potion
  - II. she gives him the drug and whne it doesn't work she realizes that it must be odysseus and asks him to lay with her
  - III. because she was immortal he was unable to resist
  - IV. he only agreed on the condition that she works no more spells against him
  - V. she agrees
- d) odysseus dines with her
  - I. odysseus refuses to eat before seeing his men
  - II. she agrees and allow it
- e) After a year, Odysseus' crew leaves
- f) But first they must stop at Hades to consult Tiresias

## Book XI

odysseus enters the underworld

elpenor requests to be buried

Sees his own mother, Antikleia 93-100

he hears her voice and he is surprised that she is dead

Tiresias and his prophecy 122-152, 165-168

he will have trouble because poseidon is mad with him

he will pass the island of helios with its cattle and they shouldn't eat it

his men will eat it and bring their own destruction

when he finally will return he will come home to people plundering his house and other problems  
he has to kill these men

Speaks to Antikleia 200-241

she wonders whether or not he returned home and why he is in the underworld

Agamemnon's warning 514-535

he warns not to trust any women for they are never faithful although Penelope is too smart to do something like that since she knows she will get killed

Tantalos 695-709

he sees him in a pool of water up to his chin and whenever he wants to drink the water goes down and he can't drink

he is next to a bush with fruit and whenever he goes out to take the fruit it moves back

Sisyphus 710-718

he sees him pushing a boulder up a mountain and whenever he is about to finish he gets knocked over and the boulder comes rolling down

Herakles (Hercules) 720-end

Purpose of Book XI—heightens Odysseus' perception and

broadens his intellectual awareness of the experience of his people.

Symbolic death and re-birth are necessary in order to prepare

for his new life.

## Book XII

Ships return to Ithaca to bury Elpenor

The Sirens' island—wax in men's ears, Odysseus lashes himself to

mast because he wants to hear it

(Prudence learned from experience of Polyphemos)

Skylla—six-headed monster—kills six crew men

Kharybdis—whirlpool

On Helios' island, Eurylokos and some men slaughter six head of

cattle

because of this his men are killed

Zeus hurls thunderbolt

Odysseus washes up on Ogygia, Calypso's island

## In class review

aeolus- wind god, gives odysseus bag of wind, men open it and blow them back

akhanians- another name for greeks

alkinoos- phakian king who sends odysseus home

antinoos- lead suitor

antikleia- odysseus' mother who dies of a broken heart

arete- phaikian queen

argos

charybdis- whirlpool hazard

demodocus- phaikian poet

elpenor- odysseus' soldier who died on Aiaia

eumaios

euryklia- loyal nurse

eurylokhos- odysseus' luitenant

eurymakhos- second lead suitor

hermes- messenger of the gods

laertes- odysseus' father

laodama- phakian prince

nausica phaikian princess

phemios- odysseus' minstrel

scylla- six headed monster

seareach- arrogant phaikian athlete

skeria- phakian island

sirens- irresistible song birds

sisyphos- punished to push a boulder in the underworld, cheated death

tantalos- stuck in water and is taunted by water and food

teiresias- blind poet

## God's

Zeus- king of gods, sends Hermes to free odysseus
Hera- zeus' wife
Athena- zeus' daughter, goddess of wisdom, hatches a plan to bring odysseus home
Poseidon- god of sea and earthquakes; is mad at odysseus for blinding his son polyphemes the kyklops; preventing Odysseus from returning home
Aiolus- wind god; gave odysseus the bag of wind,
Hephaistar- ugly god who was rejected because he was ugly, marries aphrodite( god of beauty) and then she cheats on him with ares her brother
Helios- god of the sun, his crew ate his cows
Ares-brother of aphrodite, has relations with her
Aphrodite- goddess of beauty, cheats with ares her brother, gets trapped in chains by hephaistar
Kalypso- nymph, daughter atlas, keeps odysseus on the island for 7 years
Kirke-