

The Odyssey

As you read, consider and take notes on the following:

What traits of Odysseus are revealed (good AND bad) and where?

What obstacles are coming between Odysseus and his goal?

How does he deal with these obstacles and what do his reactions say about him?

Feb 6-1:56 PM

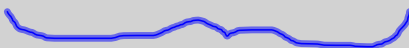


Sailing from Troy

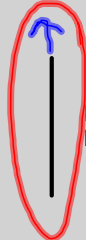
In Media Res: In the middle

After losing crew and ship, he washes up on the island of The Phaeacians - he tells them his story & they lend him a ship home - this is where the poem begins - Part 1 of his journey is told as flashback

Part 1: His long journey full of peril/trials



Flashback



Part 2: His return to Ithaca and Redemption (takes back kingdom)

Feb 10-8:23 AM



Sailing from Troy

IN MEDIA RES (in the middle): Odysseus has already gone through many trials

-is telling the story as a flashback to Phaeacians who lend him ship to go home.

- O. recalls obstacles on way home
- Calypso held captive - he "resisted" (in his heart?) and left her
- Father is Laertes, home is on Ithaca

Penelope

-MOTIVATION: to return home to wife and family (son: Telemachus)

1st Stop: Troy --> Island of Ismarus (coast of Cicones)

-men are foolish

-get drunk & continue to kill livestock after defeating them

-meanwhile, enemy gets reinforcements and defeat O's men

-O. loses several men as they escape

Feb 4-3:32 PM



Sailing from Troy

IN MEDIA RES (in the middle):

- flashback to Phaeacians

O. has already gone through trials
- they lend him ship to go home

-O. recalls obstacles on way home:

-Calypso held captive - he "resisted" and left her

-MOTIVATION:

1st Stop: Troy --> Island of Ismarus (coast of Cicones)

Feb 4-3:32 PM



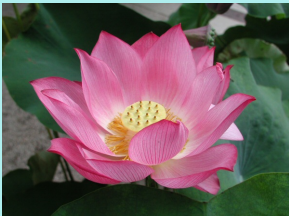
Lotus Eaters

Temptation/Gluttony

- once O's men eat the Lotus, they want to stay
- makes them "forget home"
- O. drags them back - his men lack discipline

Lotus Eaters represent - diversions from goal/desire for immediate gratification

Feb 4-3:40 PM



Lotus Eaters

Temptation/Gluttony

Lotus Eaters represent - diversions from goal/desire for immediate gratification

Feb 4-3:40 PM

Cyclops**Characterize Odysseus:**

-**daring**: wants to see Cyclops and his goods

-**clever**: gets him drunk on wine, puts out eye; doesn't kill hasly (would get trapped in cave) - says "Nohbdy" did it -- men ride under sheep to get out

Feb 4-3:41 PM

Cyclops

Tragic Flaw (trait that leads to a downfall or death) - Hubris (extreme arrogance) **Hubristic-adj.**

plb0 In my "glorying spirit"



-O's fatal mistake - he lets his "glorying spirit" impair his usual good judgment and restraint.

-As they're sailing away, he tells Polyphemus: "...tell him Odysseus, raider of cies, took your eye..." -- taunts Cyclops then idenfies himself (DUH!)

Feb 4-3:41 PM

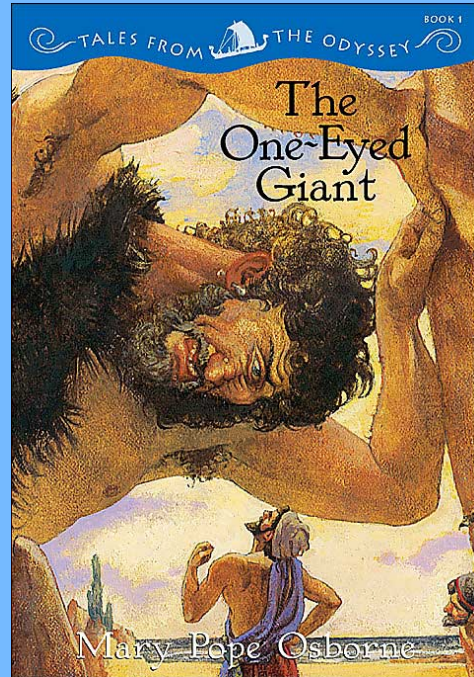
Cyclops

plea

Uh...oh...Polyphemus' Prayer:

-asks father, Poseidon, to curse
Odysseus - wishes that he:
-never see home, and if he
does, may it:

- *be a long me
- *lose companions
- *return home under strange sail
- *return to bier days @ home



Feb 4-3:41 PM

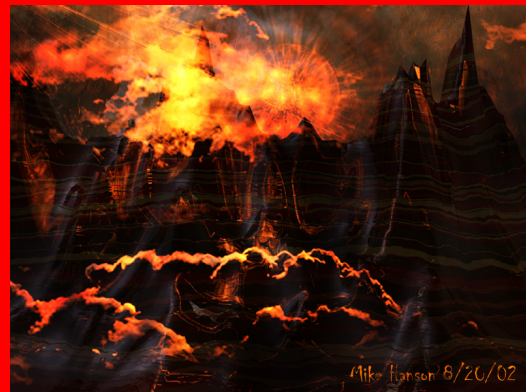
Land of the Dead

Hero's Helpers:

1. Aeolus - king of winds
- sends O w. gift of wind "don't open"
- men open it --> disobedient and troublesome

2. Circe - turns O.'s men into swine

-she warns Odysseus of troubles; sends to Land of the Dead to consult Tiresias



Feb 9-11:00 AM

Land of the Dead

Meets 3 people there:

1. Elpenor - wants proper burial, O. promises
↳ crewman who died - fell off ladder
2. Mother - he weeps; shows softer side of O.
- sensitive and compassionate
3. Tiresias - predicts anguish brought on by Poseidon:
"One narrow straight may take you through his blows"

-- i.e., there may be a way out: "**denial of yourself, restraint of shipmates.**"

WARNING: Avoid Helios' cattle & you will reach home



Feb 9-10:58 AM

Land of the Dead

Tiresias' Prophecy:

BUT...if not, I see:

-destruction of ship and crew, but you survive

-lost for years

-return under strange sail

-house filled with trouble (strange men eat food, court lady)

New Angle: 2
-will deal out death

-travel where sea is unknown and make sacrifice to Poseidon

-die of old age @ sea



Feb 10-8:46 AM



Sirens

-O. returns to Circe's island - she gives advice on how to avoid dangers he will face:

1. Sirens
2. Wandering Rocks
3. Sea Monster Scylla
4. Whirlpool Charybdis
5. Cattle



-O. shares Circe's warnings but only about Sirens
 - Why do you think he does this?

-Circe tells O - he alone should listen to song

Feb 9-11:11 AM



Sirens

* beautiful, tempting, & troublesome

* 1/2 bird, 1/2 woman

seductresses: able to lure men to their doom



Feb 9-11:11 AM

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0DIW2Hbyew&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1

Sirens



Odysseus - CLEVER b/c he puts wax in their ears;
 -tells them to tie him up & ignore pleas for release

-REALISTIC: wax in men's ears but ties self up

Why not wax in his own ears?

- Curiosity?
- To show how dangerous they are?
- Wants to test his own ability to resist?

*DOES fall under their spell - NOT impervious to temptation
 (he's human, too!)

Feb 9-11:14 AM

Scylla & Charybdis

- men panic - shows O's leadership ability
- he's calm, encouraging - reminds of past triumphs
- confident: that they'll triumph again and he's take charge -
"We must obey orders"

Scylla:

12 feet, 6 heads each with 3 rows of canine teeth



Scylla

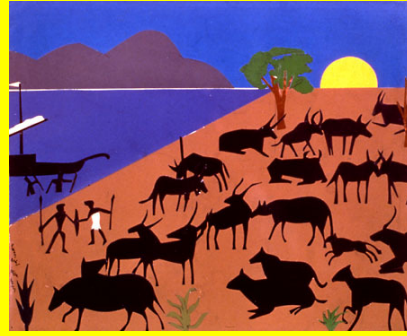


<--Charybdis -->



Feb 9-11:16 AM

Cattle of the Sun God



Odysseus warns men about cattle.

-Food runs out

He's "loco" - crazy

-***Eurylochus** (you-re-LOK-is) - crew member - says starvation is worst way to die - beckons men to join him in eating

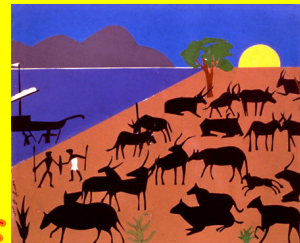
-offers best to Helios to offset anger & promises to build shrine

-if he's still mad, better to die @ sea than starve

Feb 9-11:19 AM

Cattle of the Sun God

-O. wakes up to smells of cooking meat



← Eurylochus

- blames gods for making him sleep - won't take responsibility

-Nymph, Lampetia, tattles on them right away

***HELIOS TO ZEUS:** Punish them or I'll take away sun and bring to Hades

***ZEUS TO HELIOS:** Okay, okay...!ll throw down lightning bolt & ruin boat

Circe
-Calypso warns Odysseus

-Weird things start to happen (cowhides crawling) - signs of gods' unrest

Feb 9-11:19 AM

Cattle of the Sun God



- Zeus sends bolt, ship in pieces
- O. floats on wood back for Scylla & Charyb.
- **Zeus keeps him from Scylla's eyes (helps him finally) - O. given 2nd chance when all seemed hopeless (type of resurrection/2nd life!)
- O drifts for 9 days & lands on Ogygia, Calypso's island
- she receives him & loves him - keeps for 7 years & promises eternal youth

Feb 9-11:19 AM

Epic Heroes Show Both Ordinary (Human) & Extraordinary (Superhuman) Traits -

What traits does Odysseus show for each category?

Ordinary Traits



- Shows fear - Land of Dead
- not impervious to temptation (Sirens)
- Excessively proud of feats in war & of escaping Cyclops (arrogance/hubris)
- openly shows emotions about family

EXTRAordinary Traits!



- Punished **AND** protected by gods - they don't pay attention to **everyone**
- not impulsive; shows caution & restraint when others don't (Lotus, Helios' cattle, Calypso & Circe's seduction - doesn't impulsively kill Cyclops)
- survives extraordinary tests of courage
- exceptional intelligence, clever

CONTINUE TO ADD TO THIS CHART AS YOU READ!

Feb 9-11:19 AM

The Odyssey – Homer – Epic Poem

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| • Laertes | • Sirens | • Scylla & Charybdis |
| • Poseidon | • Odysseus | • Helios |
| • Polyphemus | • Penelope | • Athena |
| • Zeus | • Telemachus | • Antinous |
| • Calypso & Circe | • Tiresias | |

- **Tragic Flaw** - hubris
- **Tragic hero** – undergoes tragic fall (ends up back at straights of Scylla & Charybdis) as a result of hubris; he's skilled, but Gods help him
- **Epic hero** – charged with a task; challenged; helped and hurt by gods
- **Hero Cycle** – charged with a quest, tested, mythical creatures help, travels to other worlds, low point/point of near defeat, resurrection, restitution

- **Characterization** – Odysseus: intelligent, cunning, brave
 - Sailing home 10 years after Trojan War: known for bravery in battle
 - Resists **Lotus Eaters** – crew has no self-control
 - **Cyclops**: Outsmarts Polyphemus in cave – gives wine, stabs eye, tells him “Nobdly” did it, ride out under sheep after Poly moves rock – **HUBRIS**: got caught up in “glorying spirit” and taunts Poly saying, “Tell them Odysseus, raider of cities, took your eye: Laertes' son, whose home's on Ithaca!” – **fatal mistake**...identifies himself; **Poly implores father, Poseidon, to curse Odysseus**: if he does return home may his journey be long and cursed, lose all crew, return under foreign sail, and go home to sadness
 - **Land of Dead**: consults Tiresias: predicts anguish...offers way out (don't eat Helios' cattle).

If you do,... gives same prediction as Polyphemus:

- destruction of ship and crew
- loss of years
- strange sail
- house filled with trouble

Jan 31-1:33 PM

Circe helps – how to avoid dangers:

1. **Sirens** - Wise but realistic – ties self up; Puts wax in ears to pass Sirens (not impervious to temptation) – shows he 's human
2. Wandering rocks
3. **Sea Monster, Scylla** – Men panic, O is good leader; calm and confident
4. Whirlpool **Charybdis**
5. **Cattle** – men eat cattle, Zeus destroys his ship, O floats back towards **Scylla & Charib (point of desperation)** – Zeus helps

- **Motivation** – to get home to Penelope
- **Conflict** –
 - Odysseus vs. Gods
 - Odysseus vs. foolish crew
 - Odysseus vs. Suitors (Antinous)

The Return:

- 20 yrs. Later
- Athena appears and helps him
- disguises as beggar
- reunites with son, **Telemachus** who helps defeat suitors

Penelope:

Loyal – waits for him all these years
Clever – Weaving (I'll choose husband when I finish), then puts forth impossible challenge (shoot through 12 ax-handle sockets) – Zeus helps
Restrained & Wise – Penelope's Test...tells servant to move bed; O is enraged b/c it's impossible to move – that's how she knows it's him.

Resolution:

O reunited with wife, kills suitors, gets back kingdom

- Determination is essential in helping one achieve his/her goals despite great struggles.
- Being overly confident can impair one's better judgment.
- People learn about themselves and their world as a result of conflict.

Jan 31-1:36 PM