

The Odyssey

Books 1-2 Study Questions

Directions: Work together with a partner or two to answer the following questions. As you read through the rest of The Odyssey, you can use the online study guide I have linked from my website.

Epithets:

Identify the following:

- a. "The bewitching nymph"
- b. "Son of Cronos"
- c. "Who marshals the thunderheads"
- d. "The clear eyed goddess"
- e. "Cool headed"
- f. "self possessed?"
- g. "Daughter of Zeus?"
- h. What has "rose red fingers?"
- i. Who is "the noble charioteer?"
- j. What is "wine dark?"

Questions:

Book 1

1. What is Zeus's complaint about men (lines 31-52) and what example does he use to prove his point?
2. What effect does the advice of Mentos/Athena have on Telemachus? What two things does she charge him to do?
3. How would you characterize Telemachus in his exchange with Penelope? What is the effect of his words on her?

Book 2

4. What has Penelope done to delay the suitors for three years?
5. During the assembly, what is attitude of Antinous and Eurymachus towards Penelope's reluctance to choose one of them? What do they demand Telemachus do?
6. What is Telemachus's answer to Antinous' demands?