

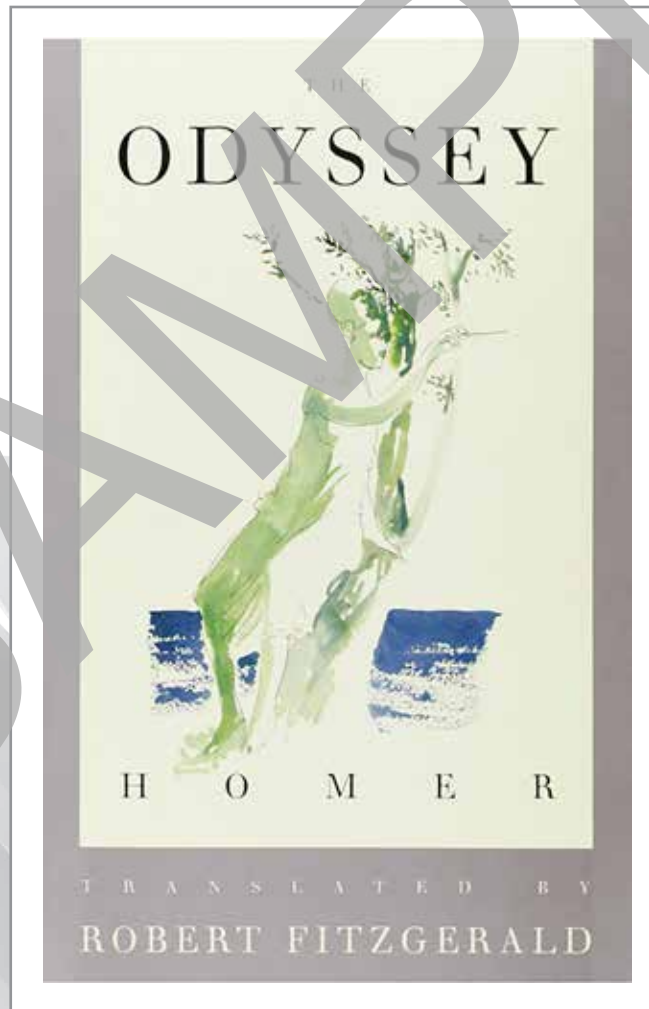


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Odyssey

Homer



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Odyssey

Homer

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name_____

The Odyssey
Activity #2: Vocabulary
page 2

(B) Predict which box(es) each word belongs in and put the word there.

Eating/Drinking	Weather	People
Places	Good Human Qualities	Bad Human Qualities

(C) Trade papers with a partner and put an "X" by the definitions you think are correct before checking a dictionary. (How often did your partner manage to fool you despite his or her ignorance of the real meanings?)

(D) Circle the numbers of definitions that are accurate, according to the dictionary.

Name _____

The Odyssey
Study Questions
Use During Reading

Book One

1. What did Poseidon have against Odysseus?
2. Why did the goddess Athena want Zeus to send Hermes to Calypso?
3. What problems did Odysseus' absence cause for his wife and son?
4. Why did Telémachus go on a voyage?
5. "Long years ago, when she had just been touched by loveliness, Laértēs purchased her." (p.18) Do you think Laértēs' wife was jealous? For those who have read the Iliad: How was Laértēs' extramarital behavior different from that of other husbands such as Agamemnon?
6. Prediction: Zeus mentioned that Agamemnon had been murdered by Aegisthus. Why do you suppose Agamemnon was killed?

Book Two

1. According to Antínoüs, why was Penelope to blame for the messy situation in Odysseus' house?
2. Who was Halithérses and what prediction did he make?
3. Athena disguised as Mentor told the suitors, "I am not incensed by all the suitor's plots and violence...Instead my wrath indicts the rest of you, who sit in silence." What was she saying?
4. Why didn't Eurycleia want Telémachus to leave?
5. Prediction: Will Telémachus' voyage be successful?

Book Three

1. Who killed Agamemnon and how was that murder avenged?
2. What did Nestor know about Odysseus' whereabouts?
3. Why did Nestor advise Telémachus to let Nestor's sons "guide (him) into sunlit Lacedaemon"? (p. 52)
4. What sort of sacrifice did Nestor oversee before sending his son off with Telémachus to Sparta?
5. Prediction: Will Telémachus follow in Oréstes' footsteps?

Name _____

The Odyssey
Activity #5: Critical Thinking/Creative Writing
Use After Reading Book VI

Directions: You are Nausícaa. You decide to write to a newspaper columnist about a man you have just met.

Step 1: Finish the letter begun for you, below:

Dear Gabby,

I have enjoyed your column for years—especially your counsel on matters of the heart. I never thought I would be writing to you about my own lovelife, but I need some advice. Plenty of men are interested in me, but _____

_____ Finally I've met someone who is

My parents _____. The only problem is

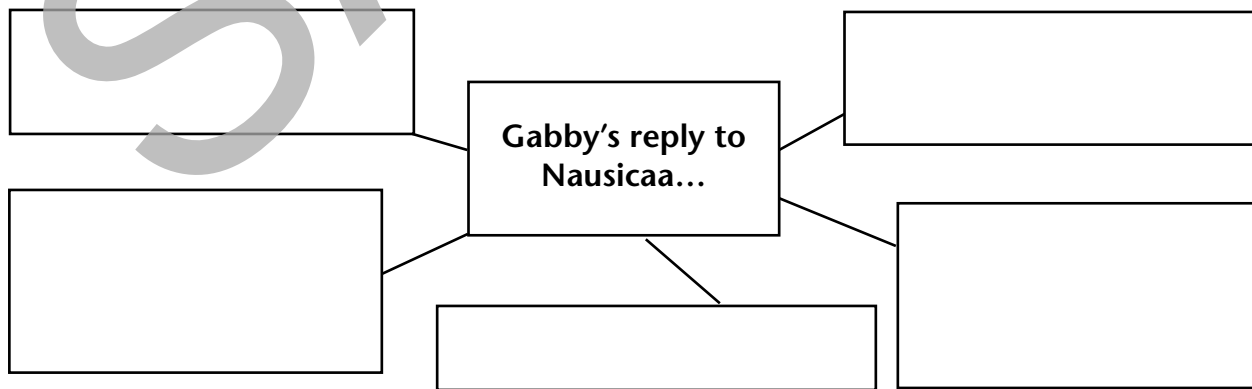
_____ I know you may say that I hardly know him, but

and now he is about to leave town. What should I do?

Signed,

Frustrated Phaeacian

Step 2: In small group, brainstorm possible advice Gabby might give to Nausícaa. Weigh the pros and cons of each. (A chart for organizing your ideas is shown below.) Then write a letter of advice to Nausícaa, using details from the completed chart.



Name _____

The Odyssey
Activity #12: Critical Thinking
Use After Reading

Directions: Lawrence Kohlberg evolved a model of moral development to explain what motivates an individual to act as he or she does. Kohlberg believes that his model can be applied to individuals of any culture. There are six levels of moral development in his model. All people do not reach the highest levels.

Decide which level best describes each character by the end of the poem.

- Level I** Acts to avoid pain or punishment.
- Level II** Acts to get a reward.
- Level III** Acts to gain approval.
- Level IV** Acts because of belief in the law.
- Level V** Acts for the welfare of others.
- Level VI** Acts because of a self-formulated set of principles

Character	Level	Reason
Odysseus		
Athena		
Calypso		
Polyphémus		
Penelope		
Telémachus		
Eumáeus		
Melántho		
Melánthius		
Alcínoüs		
Arété		
Nausícaa		
Antínoüs		
Agamemnon		
Poseidon		
Irus		
Eurycleia		