

*The Odyssey* Words to know:

**Part I:**

Contending  
Invocation  
Mutiny  
Entreat  
Guile  
Smithy  
Squall  
Curds  
Whey  
Brace  
Nectar  
Ambrosia  
Peal  
Lugger  
Shipwright  
Adze  
Divers  
Pectoral  
Carrion  
Rogue  
Adversary  
Kine  
Beeves  
Hecatombs  
Harpies  
Promontory  
Maelstrom  
Plumb  
Billow  
Combers  
Travail  
Dire  
Libation  
Petrels  
Flay  
Atone  
Aft  
Whelp  
Erebus  
Peresphone  
Amphitrite

**Part II:**

Dissemble  
Lithe  
Oblation  
Wrath  
Shirkers  
Maudlin  
Ruses  
(woven) Shroud  
Imprudent  
Zenith  
Ebb  
Wane  
Impudence  
Furies  
Mortify  
Rebuke  
Runnels  
Restitution  
Plunder  
Portion  
Entrails  
Aloof  
Courier  
Soothsayer  
Tithe  
Eyries  
Philoeteus  
Eumaeus  
Argos  
Eurycleia  
Eurynome  
Hephaestus

Definition:

- Daughters of Zeus
  - inspires human to write, draw, sing and other arts
  - presides over arts & sciences and inspires those who excel in those areas
- example: a poet might compliment someone by saying “\_\_\_\_\_ is my muse.”

<u>Muse</u>	<u>Domain</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. Clio (Cleo) –	history –	“The Proclaimer”
2. Erato –	erotic poetry –	“The Lovely”
3. Calliope –	epic poetry & rhetoric (words) –	“The Fair Voice”
4. Euterpe –	lyric poetry –	“The Giver of Pleasure”
5. Melpomene –	tragedy –	“The Songstress”
6. Polyhymnia –	sacred hymns and harmony –	“She of Many Hymns”
7. Thalia –	comedy and idyllic poetry –	“The Flourishing”
8. Terpsichore –	music and dancing –	“The Whirler”
9. Urania –	astronomy –	“The Heavenly”

## *The Odyssey* Additional Notes

- *The Iliad* was composed between 900-700 BC & preceded *The Odyssey*
- Trojan War occurred 1200 BC
- Homer's storyteller techniques added:
  - original plot structure
  - realistic dialogue and detail
  - incredible monsters
- Recurrent motifs – DOUBLES
  - contrasted drama on earth with drama of Olympian gods
  - gods and goddesses interested in human affairs and often intervened to protect or punish mortals
  - Homer made gods seem human (quarreled, loved, and were jealous)
  - A pervasive theme throughout epic is “*respect for gods is essential for survival*”
- *Iliad* and *Odyssey* was recited at least every 4 years in Athens at Festival of Athena
- these 2 epics provided basis for early Greek education:
  - detailed how to tell a story
  - how to portray characters
  - how to give a speech
  - expressed Greek ideals of thought and action
- because Odysseus is instrumental in the destruction of Troy, he angered the gods who were sympathetic to Troy and they vowed that he would have a long and difficult journey home
- The *Odyssey* has 3 major plot strands:
  1. what happens in Ithaca to Odysseus's wife and son
  2. Odysseus' wanderings during 10 years after war
  3. these 2 strands come together when Odysseus returns and joins with son to destroy his enemies
- Henrich Schliemann traveled in 1871 to northwestern Turkey (see pp 894-5)
  - in 1876 he found gold
  - became known as “Priam's gold”
  - his treasure went to Berlin museum, but at end of WWII gold had disappeared
  - in 1993 Priam's gold resurfaced in Moscow's Pushkin Museum
  - later he excavated Mycenae (known to be home of Agamemnon)
    - o also found treasure
    - o but this discovery of gold dated back to 2200 BC (1000 years before Trojan War)
    - o it became known as “Troy II”
  - a third discovery – called “Troy Villa” showed fire and violent destruction about 1200 BC
    - o this site is known as “Hisarlik
    - o now accepted as location of Trojan War
  - in 1990 a 15 year archaeological project began in Turkey directed by Karfman
    - o what will it bring to light about the Greeks and/or Trojan War?

- Religious Duty (from p 909)

- “xeno” (definition) guest, host, stranger, foreigner
- Zeus demanded that strangers be treated graciously
- host and guest had responsibility to respect each other – mutual respect
- “xenia” is often associated with presentation of gifts
- when host-guest relationship is abused, it angers Zeus- severe consequence result:
- in *Iliad* and *Odyssey* this relationship breaks down in the epics
  1. *Iliad* - when Paris runs off with Helen – insult to xenia (hospitality)
    - war resulted
    - Zeus would in the end allow the Greeks to triumph in long war
  2. *Odyssey* – when Cyclops eats Odysseus’ men and threatens to eat him last
    - humorous and ironic
    - Cyclops lives alone because of huge size & ugly appearance
    - is set apart from civilized society because of his attitude toward “xenia”
    - when Odysseus begs for hospitality, Cyclops replies “eat you last”
    - Odysseus warns of that Zeus will avenge an injured guest
    - Cyclops uses the word “xeineion” (guest-gift) eat Odysseus last
    - poetic justice that Cyclops is blinded (Homer’s Greek audience would understand the humor)
  3. *Odyssey* – suitors abuse hospitality of Odysseus (absent host) & threaten to take away wife
    - Odysseus takes bloody revenge
    - justified because of outrageous violation of religious law
  4. Odysseus’ men slaughter Helios’ sacred cattle – result almost all drown

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## ***The Greek Gods* Notes on Video by the History Channel**

1. The gods are immortal beings with human failings.
2. They are instigators of war.
3. They reigned atop Mt. Olympus in Greece.
4. The ancient gods were women in stories of adventure, heroism, and sexual conquest.
5. They are the essence of logic and reason.
6. Many mortals claimed to have encountered/interacted with these gods. They claim to have children with them; gods have cured diseases of some.
7. The origins of the Greek gods were handed down through storytellers, art, and ancient poets, such as Homer, the blind poet, who is attributed with *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, two books.
8. The gods explain the origins of man's existence. The 1<sup>st</sup> rulers of earth were Titans, Cyclops, and Giants. The Cronus and Rhea were Titans. Cronus and Rhea gave birth to Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Demeter, Hestia, and Hera.
9. Cronus was in fear of losing his power to one of his children, so he began to devour them one by one. Rhea (Cronus's wife) deceived her husband when she gave birth to her 6<sup>th</sup> child and gave him a swaddled stone instead of a baby. That child was Zeus.
10. When Zeus was grown, he sought revenge against his father and forced him to drink a secret potion that caused him to vomit up Zeus's brothers and sisters. They were reborn. Zeus and his siblings then wage war against their father and the other Titans, thus called the Battle of the Titans. The Titans were hurled into oblivion.
11. Zeus and siblings proclaimed themselves as the guardians of the universe and were given special powers. Zeus became the Supreme Ruler of the gods and mortals. Zeus was given the thunderbolt (lightning) as weapons of war.
12. The gods' home was Mt. Olympus. The food of the gods was called **ambrosia**. The drink of the gods was called **nectar**. The gods never die; thus they are immortal.
13. No mortals ever went to Mt. Olympus, but the gods went down to earth to mingle and meddle with the lives of mortals. They often took human form to trick mortals and could transform quickly into a tree, bird, or storm, etc.
14. Zeus was the most royal of the gods. He was prayed to for good luck, to end drought, etc. Zeus and other gods often had sexual encounters with humans and other goddesses. Hera, wife of Zeus, is the protector of marriage and family. She was angry that her husband was unfaithful.
15. The city of Olympia was dedicated to Zeus. Even a temple and a statue were built to honor him. The statue is 40 feet high and made of gold and ivory. It became known as the 7<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world.
16. The 1<sup>st</sup> Festival of Athletic Competition was dedicated to Zeus and became known as the Olympic Games in 775 BC and every 4 years thereafter.
17. Pagan worship of gods – they made shrines to the gods to ask gods to ensure good crop harvest or have a healthy baby.
18. Spirits of the Underworld (AKA Hades) – god of mysteries and secrets – He stole the 14 year old daughter of Demeter by opening up the earth and dragging Persephone (the daughter) down into the dark world. Demeter searched for 9 days in search of her daughter and neglected the fields, which became barren and wouldn't grow. Zeus intervened and Hades agreed to return Persephone to the world if she hadn't eaten any food. But Hades tricked Persephone into eating pomegranate seeds. So consequently she is forced to spend 3 months of each year in the lower world with Hades.
19. Pagan worship of gods – made shrines to gods – asked gods to ensure good crop harvest or healthy baby
20. Spirits of the Underworld – most famous Eleusis (mysteries of). Goddess Demeter – goddess of grain and all that grows – had a 14 year old daughter named Persephone who was beautiful and Hades (god of the Underworld) opened up the earth and dragged her down into the dark world. Demeter searched for 9 days and nights for her daughter and neglected the fields, which became barren (nothing would grow). Zeus intervened and Hades agreed to return Persephone to the world provided that she hadn't eaten any food. Hades tricked her into eating pomegranate seeds. The consequence was that she is forced to spend 3 months each year in the

lower world. Thus the seasons of nature – when Persephone was above land, Demeter allowed things to grow, but when she spent the 3 months below – winter existed and nothing grew. Demeter was often asked by mortals about abundant harvest and what would happen to them after death

21. Heroes were considered part mortal and part god.

22. The 2nd hospital in Western civilization was built in Greece in honor of a son of a god. Esculpius (sp?)

23. Hera – wife of Zeus – goddess – revengeful of husband's affairs

23. Aphrodite - goddess – instigator of love affairs between gods and men

24. Athena - goddess - virgin – righteous warfare – she becomes supreme ruler of Athens. The Greeks built the Acropolis and a marble monument to her and within the Parthenon was a 40 foot gold statue in her honor  
A festival every four years.

25. Is there a core of truth to Mythology? The gods seem to give inner chronicles of who we are.

26. Heroes – part human and part god:

Hercules – ultimate super human – symbol of courage – 12 labors of Hercules (if he could accomplish all 12 he would become a god). He did and he was burned alive to get rid of all his mortal parts and then ascended as a god

Achilles, Ajax

27. Hissarlik – possible site of ancient city of Troy (see article we will read later)



## Homeric Similes for Part I - *The Odyssey*

### Directions:

1. Number the similes as listed below
2. Copy the lines from the book as you would in a poem (a different line on the paper for each new line). Put the line numbers in the margin.
3. Write 1-2 complete sentences explaining what is being compared; make sure your explanation is complete – don't skip any part of the simile.

<u>Page #</u>	<u>Line #s</u>
1. 1048	52-55
2. 1048	70-72
3. 1052	185-188
4. 1052	199-200
5. 1053	232-235
6. 1053	236-238
7. 1053	241-243
8. 1054	259-260
9. 1054	267-271
10. 1056	329-336
11. 1056	341-344
12. 1074	796-802