

## Book 1:

### Athena Inspires the Prince



### Characters

- Aegisthis
- Antinous
- Eurycleia
- Eurymachus
- Mentis
- Pallas Athena
- Penelope
- Phemius
- Telemachus
- Zeus

### Settings


- Mount Olympus
- Ithaca

### Thought Questions

- Why do you think Homer begins the work by having Zeus discuss Aegisthus' murder? Is he planting the idea of the unfaithful wife waylaying her husband, since Aegisthus, the lover of Agamemnon's wife Clytemnestra, had just been killed by the son of Agamemnon?
- What customs can we see dealing with how one is to treat strangers?
- What does Telemachus' treatment of his mother show about the views of the Achaians toward women?
- Why would a book that purports to tell the story of Odysseus actually begin by discussing his son and what was happening at home?
- What kind of limits do the gods have?
- Many people question whether the Achaians believed there was such a thing as free will. Reread Zeus' comments on Aegisthus. Did he choose what he did or did the gods choose it?

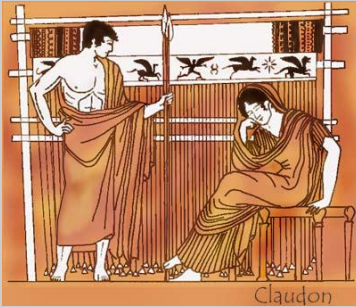
### Questions

1. Who is the narrator speaking to in the first stanza?
2. Where is Odysseus at the beginning?
3. Where is Poseidon which allows the gods to consider helping Odysseus?
4. What has happened to Aegisthus and why is Zeus upset about it?

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5. What does Zeus say is the reason Poseidon hates Odysseus?
  6. Who are we told has beautiful braids?
  7. As whom does Athena disguise herself?
  8. Where is Telemachus when we first see him?
  9. Before asking his guest questions, what does Telemachus do for him?
  10. Identify each of the following: (a) Phemius, (b) Calypso, (c) Ogygia, (d) "the Wayfinder" ["the guide, the giant-killer"] (e) Achaia
  11. Why are the people feasting in Odysseus' palace?
  12. What advice does Athena give Telemachus?
  13. What does the bard sing about which upsets Penelope?
  14. What is Penelope's father's name?
  15. How does Telemachus treat his mother?
  16. Who are the two named suitors?
  17. What three ways do the suitors entertain themselves?
  18. Identify Eurykleia and Laertes.
  19. What does the nurse do with Telemachus' tunic?
  20. What is Telemachus' blanket?

## Book 2: Characters

### Telemachus Sets Sail



*Telemachus and Penelope, based on a red-figure vase painting.*



*Telemachus would begin his journey in one of the ships like those above. His father made his journey in a similar ship.*

## Characters

- Halithersès
- Mentor

## Setting

- Ithaca

## Thought Questions

- What kind of person does Telemachus appear to be? Does he appear to be someone who is 19? Why hasn't he taken over his father's kingdom?

## Questions

1. What does Telemachus bring with him to the assembly?
2. How had Penelope tricked the suitors?
3. What had she pretended to make and for whom was it intended?
4. What sign does Zeus send to show he has heard Telemachus threaten the suitors?
5. What prophecy does old Halitherses give as a result of seeing No. 4?
6. How many men does Telemachus need to sail with him?
7. Identify Mentor.
8. What threat toward Odysseus is made by Leókritos at the end of the assembly?
9. What is Athena's first disguise in this book?
10. What is the nurse in charge of protecting?
11. What decision does Telemachus make regarding his mother?
12. What is Athena's other disguise?
13. What does Athena do to the suitors at the end of the book?
14. Who is the first god to whom the sailors offer a libation?

### Book 3:

#### King Nestor Remembers



*Ancient Greek coins showed heifers, like the ones found in Pylos.*

#### Characters

- Clytemnestra
- Nestor
- Orestês
- Písistratos [Pisistratus]

#### Setting

- Pylos

#### Thought Questions

- Telemachus is learning that people do things differently in other countries. What kind of customs do we see among the people of Pylos?
- In what way is the story of Orestês reflecting the dilemma of Telemachus' situation?

#### Questions

1. What are the people of Pylos doing when Telemachus arrives?
2. Who does Athena as Mentor pray to?
3. What story does Nestor tell about his journey home?
4. Which of the following are topics Nestor talks about: (a) a fight between Menelaus and Agamemnon; (b) how Menelaus arrived back finally the day Agamemnon's murderers were buried; (c) Klytáimnéstra's unfaithfulness; (d) Odysseus kidnapped by Calypso; (e) how Aegisthus had ruled for eight years before being killed.
5. What distant country had Menelaus ended up in trying to return home?
6. Who arrived home first, Agamemnon or Menelaus?
7. Does Nestor ever realize he had met Athena?
8. What do they do to the horns of the heifers they sacrifice?
9. Who goes with Telemachus?
10. How do they travel?

### Book 4:

#### The King and Queen of Sparta

#### Characters

- Eidothea
- Helen
- Iphthime (phantom)
- Medon
- Menelaus



*Menelaus' men had wanted him to kill Helen at the end of the war; but when he faced her, he was overtaken by her beauty and spared her. Illustration based on a black-figure vase.*

- Proteus

### Settings

- Sparta in Lacedaemon
- Pharos (in story)
- Ithaca

### Thought Questions

- Ancient Greek children were taught morals and manners from this book. What is the continuing message about treatment of the stranger?
- Helen of Troy was a fascinating subject for the ancient Greeks. How is she described in the book? Is she someone we are to feel sorry for or someone we are to hate for all she did? She is "golden" like Artemis. Does this mean she has yellow hair, a favorite of the ancient Akhaians?
- In Menelaus' story about Helen at Troy, he says she came with Deiphobus. Deiphobus was a son of King Priam and the brother of Paris. After Paris' death, Helen lived with him as his wife. Why do you think Menelaus adds that detail to his story?
- How do you think the ancient Akhaians viewed Egypt? Look how important it is in this book.
- Since the Akhaians knew the story of the Trojan heroes, the Old Man of the Sea's recitation of what happened to them would be of interest. Why is it important to the story?
- Why is Menelaus considered Zeus' son-in-law?
- How does Telemachus describe Ithaca when refusing the gift of the horse?
- One critic has pondered what kind of marriage Helen and Menelaus must have if she has a drug handy which will keep him from crying about the men lost at Troy. Does she give him this often?

### Questions

1. Telemachus arrives as Menelaus is celebrating a double wedding of his children. Who are they and who are they marrying?
2. How are the two travelers treated when they arrive?
3. Why is Telemachus so impressed with Menelaus' palace?
4. What causes Menelaus to weep the first time?
5. What causes Telemachus to weep the first time?
6. How does Helen stop the men from crying?
7. What is Helen's story about Odysseus? How does the story paint Odysseus? How does its ending paint Helen as the wronged woman?

**Book 5:**  
**Odysseus — Nymph  
and Shipwreck**



*Hermes, patron of merchants  
and thieves, with his caduceus*

8. What is Menelaus' story? How does it paint Helen? How does it paint Odysseus?
9. Where do the two travelers sleep?
10. What did Menelaus have to do to get the Old Man of the Sea to help him?
11. What gift does Telemachus accept from Menelaus?
12. How do the suitors learn that Telemachus has gone?
13. What plan does Antinoös have to deal with Telemachus?
14. What stops Penelope from sending to Odysseus' father for help?
15. What relation to Penelope is the phantom who Pallas Athena sends to comfort her?

**Characters**

- Hermes
- Calypso [Calypso]
- Ino

**Setting**

- Mt. Olympos
- Ogygia
- Ocean
- Phaiákia [Phaeacia]

**Thought Questions**

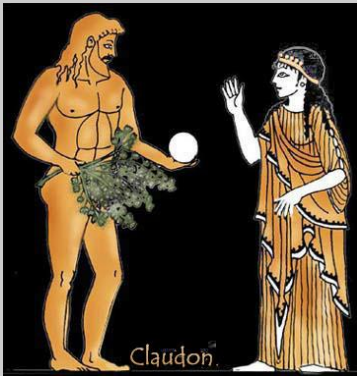
- How does the discovery of Calypso supply evidence about the importance of weaving and the loom to the Akhaians?
- Can you see the Akhaian double standard that required women to be faithful to men, but allowed Odysseus to honorable even while sleeping with Calypso?
- When Odysseus reaches Phaiákia, how does he show himself a pious man?
- One critic has pointed out that Odysseus' trial in the ocean is similar to a baby being born, with him arriving weak and naked, ready for his new life. Would you agree?

**Questions**

1. What is Calypso doing when we first see her?
2. What is our first view of Odysseus?
3. How does Calypso view Odysseus?
4. What is Calypso willing to do regarding Odysseus' leaving?

## Book 6:

### The Princess and the Stranger



*Odysseus meets Nausikaa at the beach*

5. Are Odysseus and Calypso alone on the island?
6. How long does it take Odysseus to build his raft?
7. How long does it take Odysseus to reach Phaiákia?
8. What causes Odysseus to lose the raft?
9. What does Ino give Odysseus to save himself?
10. How long is Odysseus forced to swim?
11. What happens to Ino's scarf?
12. How does the book end?

#### Characters

- Alkínoös [Alcinous]
- Arete (Nausikaa's mother)
- Nausikaa [Nausicaa]

#### Setting

- Phaiákia [Phaeacia] in Scheria

#### Thought Questions

- What connection do the Phaiákians have to the *Kyklopês*?
- How does this book add to our understanding of views of marriage in the Akhaian world?

#### Questions

1. Why had the Phaiákians moved from their original home to the land of Scheria?
2. How does Athena manipulate Nausikaa to go meet Odysseus?
3. What are the girls doing which awakens Odysseus?
4. What does Odysseus use to cover himself?
5. How do the girls react to Odysseus?
6. How does Nausikaa react to Odysseus?
7. What plan does Nausikaa give to Odysseus to come to the palace?
8. Where is Odysseus at the end of the book?
9. Twice Homer describes the color of wool that Nausikaa's mother spins. What is the color?

## Book 7:

### Phaiákia's Halls and Gardens



*Odysseus begs for Arete's help.*

#### Characters

- Laódamas [Laodamas]

#### Settings

- Phaiákia [Phaeacia]

#### Thought Questions

- How is the theme of hospitality to strangers again reinforced?

#### Questions

1. How did Pallas Athena protect Odysseus as he went to the palace?
2. What disguise does Athena take?
3. Why is Odysseus overwhelmed by the palace?
4. What statues are at the entrance?
5. At what moment is Odysseus revealed to Arete and Alkínoös?
6. What does Alkínoös agree to do for Odysseus?
7. Why does Arete speak sharply to Odysseus?
8. What is it that Alkínoös would like Odysseus to do for them?
9. Where does Odysseus sleep at the end of the book?



## Book 8:

### A Day for Songs and Contests



*Demódokos plays the lute and sings of Troy.*

#### Characters

- Broadsea
- Demódokos [Demodocus]
- Halius

#### Settings

- Phaiákia [Phaeacia]

#### Thought Questions

- Some critics believe that the character of Demódokos is based on Homer himself and thus have attributed his blindness to him. How is the bard described? How does Odysseus describe him?
- In what way does Demódokos' second song reinforce the theme of the unfaithful wife?
- Homer is noted for his similes. Look at the stanza following Demódokos' song of Troy regarding Odysseus' crying. What other examples can you find?

#### Questions

1. Why do the people assemble with Alkínoös and Odysseus?
2. What song does Demódokos sing?
3. How does Odysseus react?
4. Who is the first to challenge Odysseus to a contest?
5. Who insults Odysseus with his taunts?
6. What does Odysseus do to meet the challenge?
7. What second song does Demódokos sing?
8. What does the king have his son and Halius do to entertain Odysseus?
9. What gifts is Odysseus given?
10. What song does Odysseus have Demódokos sing about Troy?
11. Why does Alkínoös have Demódokos stop singing?
12. What foreshadowing does Alkínoös give about how Phaiákia will be punished for helping a stranger get home?
13. What is Alkínoös asking for at the end of the book?

## Book 9:

### In the One-Eyed Giant's Cave



*The blinding of the Kyklopês is one of the most well-known moments in *The Odyssey*.*

## Book 10:

### The Bewitching Queen of Aiaia

#### Characters

Polyphêmos [Polyphemus]

#### Settings

- Phaiákia
- Ismarus [in flashback]
- Land of the Lotus-eaters [in flashback]
- Kyklopês [Cyclopes] Island [in flashback]

#### Thought Questions

- In what way do the men show that coming from Troy they are still in the mindset of "sackers of cities"?
- In what ways does the Kyklopês go against all the tenets of hospitality we have seen? How does he parody that same hospitality?
- Why do you think Homer goes into such graphic detail about the killing and cannibalism of the Kyklopês?

#### Questions

1. Why does Odysseus say they sacked the city of the Kikones?
2. What effect does the lotus have on anyone who tastes it?
3. What was unusual about the island that lies near the island of the Kyklopês?
4. What kind of occupation does the Kyklopês do?
5. What does Odysseus take with him when they go to investigate the Kyklopês' cave?
6. How many men does the Kyklopês eat each time he eats?
7. Why doesn't Odysseus just kill the Kyklopês?
8. How does Odysseus trick the Kyklopês with his name?
9. How is Odysseus able to blind the Kyklopês?
10. What boastful act does Odysseus do which sets up his suffering later?

#### Characters

- Aiolos
- Antiphatês



*Kirkê turns Odysseus' crew  
into pigs.*

- Kirkê
- Elpenor
- Eurylokhos [Eurylochus]

### Settings

- Phaiákia
- Aiolia, Aiolos' island [in flashback]
- Land of the Laistrygonês [in flashback]
- Aiaia [Aeaea] [in flashback]

### Thought Questions

- What kind of woman does Kirkê represent?
- If Odysseus is such a faithful husband, how do you explain his dalliance with Kirkê? What does that say about how Akhaian men viewed themselves versus how they viewed their women?

### Questions

1. What gift does Aeolus give Odysseus?
2. Why does Aiolos refuse to help Odysseus a second time?
3. In what ways are the Laistrygonês like the Kyklopês?
4. What happens to Odysseus' fleet?
5. What was unusual about the wolves and lions around Kirkê's residence?
6. Does Kirkê live in a palace or a cave?
7. Who is Eurylokhos?
8. What happens to all but one of Odysseus' men in the first platoon?
9. What is molü [moly] and how does Odysseus learn about it?
10. How does Kirkê know who Odysseus is?
11. What promise does Odysseus make Kirkê give before going to bed with her?
12. How long does Odysseus stay with Kirkê?
13. Who is Elpenor?
14. Who prompts Odysseus to finally leave?
15. Where does Kirkê tell Odysseus he has to travel before he can head home?

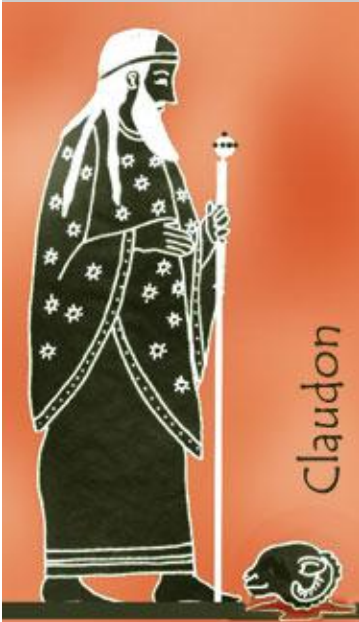
### Book 11:

### The Kingdom of the

### Characters

- Akhilles [Achilles]
- Agamemnon
- Antikleia [Anticleia]

## Dead



*The blind prophet Tiresias appears in several ancient Greek works, including Oedipus the King.*

- Great Ajax
- Herakles [Heracles]
- Tiresias

## Settings

- Phaiákia
- The Kingdom of the Dead [in flashback]

## Thought Questions

- What do we learn about the burial customs of the Akhaians?
- Visiting the Land of the Dead allows Homer a chance to talk with famous mythological characters. Who are some of these?
- What view of death does this book convey? Note Achilles' speech (lines 555-573)
- What heroes from the Trojan War does Odysseus speak to?
- The makers of the film "The Odyssey" didn't read Homer when they created the land of the dead. If you have seen the film, compare their view with Homer's.

## Questions

1. What does Odysseus have to do which allows the dead to recognize and speak to him?
2. What does Elpenor ask Odysseus to put on top of his grave?
3. What act of penance does Odysseus have to do after he deals with the suitors?
4. How did Odysseus' mother die?
5. Why can't Odysseus embrace his mother?
6. How does Homer remind us we are hearing a story told to the people of Phaiákia?
7. What view of women does Agamemnon's story suggest?
8. What does Achilles ask Odysseus about?
9. Who is the Trojan hero who refuses to speak to Odysseus?
10. Part of our understanding of Hades comes from the views of Minos, Tantalus, and Sisyphus. Who were they and what were their punishments?
11. Who is the last great hero that Odysseus

## Book 12:

### The Cattle of the Sun



*The sierenes were portrayed as both male and female in the earlier works, but later became primarily female. Some areas represented them as having arms.*

sees before leaving the land of the dead?

#### Characters

- Helios

#### Settings

- Phaiákia
- Aiaia [Aeaea] [in flashback]
- Island of the Sierenes [Sirens] [in flashback]
- Skylla [Scylla] [in flashback]
- Thrinakia [Thrinacia]
- Kharybdis [Charybdis]

#### Thought Questions

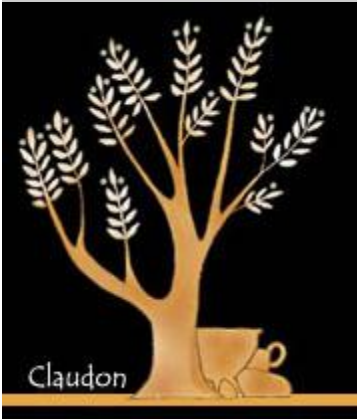
- Which attribute of the sierenes makes them dangerous?

#### Questions

1. What does Odysseus do when he returns to Aiaia?
2. What advice does Kirkê give Odysseus regarding Skylla and Kharybdis?
3. What does Odysseus use for his men and for himself to escape the lure of the sierenes?
4. Does Odysseus warn his men about all the dangers that lay in their path?
5. How many men does he lose to Skylla?
6. Why are Odysseus' men starving on the island of the sun god?
7. How is Eurylokhos responsible for the death of Odysseus' crew?
8. Which god asks for the men to be killed?
9. Which god sends the storm and wrecks his ship?
10. How does Odysseus save himself?
11. Where does the story of Odysseus' journey end?

## Book 13: Characters

### Ithaka at Last!



- no new characters

### Settings

- Phaiákia
- Ithaka
- Mt. Olympos

### Thought Questions

- Why would tripods and cauldrons be good gifts?
- Athena is credited with giving Athens the olive tree, which became one of her symbols. Can you see any significance to hiding the treasure at the olive tree?
- Why do you think Homer punishes the people of Skhería for helping the protagonist? What point do you think he is making?

### Questions

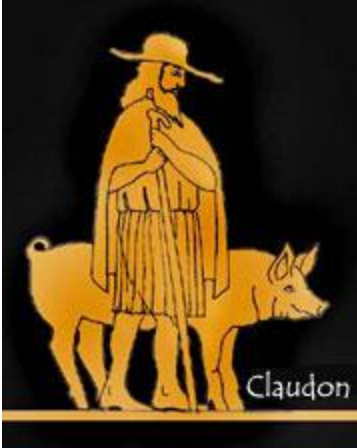
1. How does Alkínoös suggest they pay for the gifts for Odysseus?
2. Does the ship sail at daybreak or at night?
3. What does Odysseus do once the journey begins?
4. What land features are described by Homer at the point where the ship lands?
5. Where do they leave Odysseus' treasure?
6. What does Poseidon do to the Phaiákian ship?
7. What does he do to Skhería?
8. What response does Alkínoös have to what happens?
9. What disguise does Athena take?
10. Why does Odysseus lie to her?
11. Where do they hide the treasure?
12. What disguise does Athena give Odysseus?

## Book 14: Characters

### The Loyal Swineherd

- Eumaios

### Settings



- Ithaka

### Thought Questions

- How does Eumaios show an understanding of hospitality?
- Why does Odysseus see Eumaios as one of his trusted slaves?

### Questions

1. Where does Eumaios live?
2. How does Odysseus save himself from the attack dogs?
3. How wealthy is Odysseus according to Eumaios?
4. Where does Odysseus say he is from?
5. Does Eumaios believe Odysseus when told that Odysseus is on the way home?
6. What does Eumaios feed Odysseus?
7. How does the existence of Menaúlios show Eumaios is top-ranking slave in Odysseus' household?
8. Whose cloak does Odysseus say the "real" Odysseus gave him at Troy?
9. What makes up the bed Odysseus sleeps on?
10. Where does Eumaios sleep?

### Book 15: Characters

- Theoklymenos

### Settings

- Lakedaimon
- Pylos
- Ithaka

### Thought Questions

- How superstitious are the people we are studying?
- For the Akhaians, good omens come on the right, bad omens on the left. Note that difference as you read the book. How are the two omens described in this book?

### Questions

1. Why does Telémakhos decide it is time to

## The Prince Sets Sail for Home

- go home to Ithaka?
2. What gifts do the following give to Telémakhos? (a) Meneláos, (b) Helen, (c) Megapênthês
  3. What omen does Helen interpret?
  4. Where does Telémakhos ask Peisístratos to take him in Pylos?
  5. Why does Theoklymenos want to go with Telémakhos?
  6. According to Eumaios, how did Odysseus' mother die?
  7. Who is Princess Ktimenê, mentioned in Eumaios' story?
  8. Who was responsible for stealing Eumaios from his home and making him a slave?
  9. Whose house does Telémakhos send Theoklymenos?
  10. What omen does Theoklymenos interpret?

### **Book 16: Characters**

#### **Father and Son**

- Amphínomos [Amphinomus]
- Medon

#### **Settings**

- Ithaka

#### **Thought Questions**

- Why does Odysseus not want Telémakhos to tell Penélopê he is back?

#### **Questions**

1. How do the guard dogs treat Telémakhos when he arrives at Eumaios' house?
2. Describe the relationship between Eumaios and Telémakhos.
3. What message is Eumaios sent off to deliver?
4. When Athena appears, what form does she take and what does she do?
5. Does Telémakhos immediately believe that Odysseus is who he says he is?
6. How is Odysseus' and Telémakhos' crying described?
7. How many suitors and servants does Telémakhos say there are?
8. What plan does Odysseus give Telémakhos regarding the arms and



**Book 17:**  
**Stranger at the Gates**

- armor?
9. What proposal does Antinoös make regarding Telémakhos?
  10. What is Amphínomos' viewpoint?
  11. What does Penélopê do in response to the plotting?
  12. Which suitor lies to Penélopê about his intent regarding her son?

**Characters**

- Melánthios [Melanthius]

**Settings**

- Ithaka

**Thought Questions**

- Look at Antinoos' speech regarding beggars. What does it say about the way an average Akhaian might view a beggar? Are the suitors the same?
- Odysseus is supposed to be the richest ruler around. Does his palace sound like anything to match the others we've visited?

**Questions**

1. What does Telémakhos tell Eumaios to do for Odysseus?
2. How does Telémakhos treat his mother when she comes to greet him?
3. How is Theoklymenos treated when he arrives at Telémakhos' palace?
4. Does Telémakhos tell his mother the truth of what he was told at Nestor's and Meneláos' in answer to her question about what he found out?
5. What prophecy does Theoklymenos make to Penélopê regarding Odysseus?
6. What stupid thing does Melánthios do as he passes Odysseus?
7. How is Melánthios treated by the suitors?
8. How does Odysseus say he recognizes Odysseus' palace?
9. Identify Argos and describe what happens with him.
10. What advice does Telémakhos tell Eumaios to give Odysseus?
11. What kind of gifts do the suitors give

**Book 18: Characters**  
**The Beggar-King of Ithaka**

Odysseus?

12. What stupid thing does Antínoös do to Odysseus?
13. What is Odysseus curse of Antínoös?
14. Why does Penélopê want to meet the beggar?
15. What omen does Telémakhos send?

**Book 18: Characters**

- Iros [Irus]
- Melántho

**Settings**

- Ithaka

**Thought Questions**

- What does Odysseus think of Amphínomos?
- What does the interchange between Penélopê and Eurynome suggest about the supposed place of women during this time period?

**Questions**

1. Where is Odysseus when he is confronted by Iros?
2. What does Antínoös propose the winner of the fight between Iros and Odysseus get?
3. What threat does Antínoös make to Iros?
4. What does Odysseus' one blow do?
5. What advice does Odysseus give Amphínomos?
6. Why does Penélopê decide to go down among the men?
7. What does Athena do while Penélopê sleeps?
8. At what point did Odysseus say Penélopê should marry according to her story about his parting?
9. What does Penélopê ask the suitors to do?
10. What do the suitors do after Penélopê goes to her room?
11. How does Melántho treat Odysseus?
12. Who throws a second stool at Odysseus?

**Book 19:**  
**Penélopê and Her**  
**Guest**

**Characters**

- no new characters

**Settings**

- Ithaka

**Thought Questions**

- How does the book show Penélopê the equal to her husband?
- Do you think it is possible that someone would love their spouse as much as Penélopê says she does and not recognize her husband even though he has been gone 20 years?

**Questions**

1. What reasons is Telémakhos to give the suitors about removing the arms and armor from the hall?
2. How does Athena help remove the armor?
3. Does Penélopê hold an audience with Odysseus in her chambers or in the great hall of the house?
4. Which maid berates Odysseus?
5. What does Eurynome do with the chair before one sits in it?
6. What story we've already heard does Penélopê tell Odysseus about herself and the suitors?
7. What clothing items does Odysseus say he saw on Penélopê's husband when he saw him, which convinces her he knew Odysseus?
8. Why, according to Odysseus, is Penélopê's husband not home yet?
9. What does Penélopê ask Eurykleia to do for Odysseus?
10. How does Eurykleia recognize Odysseus?
11. Where had Odysseus gotten his name?
12. How had Odysseus gotten the scar on his thigh?
13. How does Odysseus react to Eurykleia's recognition of him?
14. What dream does Penélopê describe to Odysseus?
15. What contest does Penélopê propose at the end of the book?

## Book 20: Characters

### Portents Gather

- Ctesippus
- Philoetius

### Settings

- Ithaka

### Thought Questions

- What evil omen does Amphinomus see?
- There is foreshadowing in the type of festival being held

### Questions

1. What kind of bed does Odysseus sleep on?
2. What comfort does Athena offer Odysseus?
3. What prayer does Penélopê make to Artemis?
4. What 2 signs (one from Zeus and one from a woman grinding grain) offers comfort to Odysseus?
5. What convinces Odysseus that Philoetius is trustworthy?
6. What festival day is going on in town?
7. How does Athena use Ctesippus to anger Odysseus?
8. What indication do we have that Athena is driving the suitors crazy?
9. What prophecy does Theoclymenos make regarding the suitors before leaving?
10. What time of day does the book end with?

**Book 21:**  
**Odysseus Strings  
His Bow**

**Characters**

- Leodes

**Settings**

- Ithaka

**Thought Questions**

- How has Homer built up the expectations of his listeners for the slaughter that is about to take place?

**Questions**

1. What contest does Athena inspire Penélopê to propose?
2. What is so special about Odysseus' bow?
3. What prize does Penélopê propose for the contest?
4. Who sets up the axes?
5. Who is the first person to try to string the bow? Does he succeed?
6. Identify Leodes.
7. What does Melanthius bring to try to help the suitors string the bow?
8. How does Odysseus prove to Eumaeus and Philoetius that he is their master?
9. How are the men convinced to let Odysseus try to string the bow?
10. Why does Penélopê leave the contest? What does she do?
11. What sign does Zeus send when the bow is strung?
12. How does the book end?

**Book 22:**  
**Slaughter in the Hall**

**Characters**

- No new character

**Settings**

- Ithaka

**Thought Questions**

- Does the slaughter of the suitors meet your expectations?
- Among the power of Homer's talent are his similes. Why is his description of the women servants' deaths particularly effective?

**Questions**

1. Who is the first suitor killed?
2. How is the first suitor killed?
3. How does Eurymachus try to save them all?
4. How is he killed?
5. How is Amphinomus killed?
6. What equipment does Telemachos fetch to help them?
7. How does Melanthius betray his master? How is he eventually punished for it?
8. What do the two servant do to him?
9. Who does Athena come disguised as?
10. What moment do they realize it is actually Athena?
11. What does Leodes do to save himself? Does it work?
12. What does Phemius do to save himself? Does it work?
13. Only two men are saved. Who are they?
14. What response does Odysseus have to Eurykleia regarding a cry of triumph?
15. What job are the dozen unfaithful servants given?
16. What happens to the dozen servants?

## Book 23: Characters

### The Great Rooted Bed

- No new character

#### Settings

- Ithaka

#### Thought Questions

- How does Penélopê show herself Odysseus' equal?
- Why doesn't the epic end here, when Odysseus is back in the arms of his wife?

#### Questions

1. What does Odysseus do to purify the house?
2. Where do Odysseus and Penélopê have their reunion?
3. How does Penélopê act when she goes to meet Odysseus?
4. What does Odysseus ask Phemius to do?
5. How does Athena change Odysseus?
6. What does Penélopê ask Eurycleia to do which angers Odysseus?
7. What is the secret of the bed that Odysseus reveals?
8. What does Athena do to make the reunion of Odysseus and Penélopê special?
9. What prophecy about his death does Odysseus tell Penélopê?
10. How do Odysseus and Penélopê end their evening?
11. What instructions does Odysseus give Penélopê in the morning?
12. Where does Odysseus go and who goes with him?
13. How does Odysseus propose restocking the herds depleted by the suitors?

## Book 24: Characters

### Peace

- Euphithes [Eupithes]
- Dolios [Dolius] and his sons

### Settings

- Ithaka
- Mt. Olympus

### Thought Questions

- What burial customs are described in two places of this book?
- How does Homer create a symmetry to the book by including Agamemnon and his story in this last book?
- Who are the Kephallenians [Cephalenians]?
- How does the book justify the murders of the suitors?
- A recent film of the book leaves off this book. What does it lose by not including it?

### Questions

1. Who leads the dead suitors to Hades?
2. Why does Agamemnon feel that Akhilleus [Achilles] had the better death?
3. What argument does Amphimedon give to Agamemnon to justify their actions?
4. How does Agamemnon judge Penélopê?
5. In what is Laertes living?
6. Why does Odysseus tell Laertes that long lie about who he is?
7. How does Laertes change after his bath?
8. What decision does Zeus make regarding Odysseus?
9. Who kills Euphithes?
10. How does Athena disguise herself?
11. Who forces the men to make peace?