The Odyssey Part 1 Study Guide

**Directions:** Identify each of the places below in one or two sentences. Write using complete sentences.

1. Ithaca
2. Troy
3. Aeaea
4. Olympus
5. The Land of the Dead

**Directions:** Identify each of the people below in one or two sentences. Write using complete sentences.

1. Zeus
2. Athena
3. The Lotus Eaters
4. Calypso
5. Penelope
6. Polyphemus
7. Scylla
8. Charybdis
9. Telemachus
10. Sirens
11. Circe
12. Poseidon
13. Odysseus
14. Tiresias

**Directions:** Please answer the questions below.

1. Who do scholars credit for “writing” the Odyssey?
2. The Odyssey begins in the middle of the story as Odysseus is telling the first part of the story of his journey. What literary term do we use to describe a story that starts in the middle?
   1. In media res
   2. Deus ex machine
   3. Epic
   4. Figurative language
3. Which character trait best describes Odysseus?
4. Cowardly
5. Intelligent
6. Brave
7. Strong
8. What was Odysseus’ role in the Trojan War?
9. How long does the Trojan War last?
10. How does Odysseus and his men escape Polyphemus and get out of his cave?
11. Who gives Odysseus and his men and “bag filled with the winds?” What happens them when they open it?
12. Circe transforms half of Odysseus’ men into what type of animal?
13. Why must Odysseus journey to the Land of the Dead?
14. What prediction does Tiresias give Odysseus in the Land of the Dead?
15. What does Odysseus tell his men to do so that they will not fall prey to the Siren’s songs?
16. Why do Odysseus’ men decide to eat the Helios’ cattle? What does Helios say that he will do if Zeus does not punish Odysseus and his men?

**Directions:** Read each of the essay questions below. Choose and complete one of them. To receive full credit, your answer must be thorough, make a claim, and completely answer the question.

1. The Odyssey is a traditional epic, but do you think that Odysseus is a hero? Please use examples from the text and our class discussions about heroes and mythology to answer the question.
2. In his book, “Hero With a Thousand Faces,” Joseph Campbell claimed that every culture has hero myths, like the Odyssey. Campbell also claimed that each of these heroes go on a quest called “The Hero’s Journey.” Write an essay determining whether Campbell is correct by choose three events from the Odyssey that you feel do or do not match specific points on the Hero’s Journey. Please use examples from the text and our class discussions about heroes and mythology to answer the question.