

NAME: Key

BLOCK:

NOTEBOOK CHECK #5: THE ODYSSEY READING GUIDE

Key: LE= Literary Element; RS= Reading Strategy; BI= Big Idea

PART ONE:

1. RS- What is the function of the italicized paragraphs?

italics give essential background or summarize omitted sections of the epic. New coasts: italics cover 8/24 book
significance of invocation: honors gods & creates interest

2. BI- How has Odysseus proved to his audience that he is determined to achieve his journey's end?

Even the love of two beautiful goddesses has failed to tempt him from his objective of reaching home. He is eager to return to his home & parents, whose sweetness cannot be surpassed by far lands, even those where he finds a house of gold.

3. LE- What traits does Odysseus reveal in this episode (lines 52-53) that set him apart from his men?

In making his men return to their ships, he proves that he is a true leader, responsible for the welfare of his crew and determined to attain his goal.

4. BI- Why is Odysseus making this expedition? What does this side trip suggest about epic journeys?

He is curious to find out more about the people who live on these islands. Students may conclude +

5. LE- What is Odysseus admitting in line 124? What do we learn about the traits of an epic hero form this decision?

Staying in the cave was a mistake. This suggests that an epic hero can have human failings, as well as the humility to acknowledge them.

6. LE- Epics include a mixture of the everyday and the supernatural. How does the Cyclops embody both of these states?

The cyclops is an enormous supernatural creature. He also carries on the domestic tasks of sheparding and milking.

7. BI- What is Odysseus suggesting about misfortunes that occur on a journey?

He is suggesting that misfortunes are orchestrated by the gods

8. LE- What character trait does Odysseus display in line 187?

He displays cunning. He is proud of this quality, as it was the chief trait he named in introducing himself to Phaeacians

9. What hint is Odysseus dropping here (244) about the future of his journey?

Alerting his audience to the importance of the Cyclops rams in this adventure. He is also suggesting that a god may be taking an interest in the hero's journey.

10. LE- What do you think Odysseus has in mind (273-274)? What does it confirm about his character?

Odysseus almost certainly has a trick in mind. He knows his own limitations and tries to outwit his opponents when he lacks the physical strength to overcome them

11. LE- Why did Odysseus tell the Cyclops his name was Nobody? How well has Odysseus's plan worked?

Odysseus uses a false name to deceive the Cyclops neighbors into thinking that nobody has hurt him. Odysseus's plan has served him well, but he will find that he has made a powerful enemy in Poseidon, Polyphemus' father

12. LE- What emotions does the Cyclops express in this passage (377-378)? Contrast his character with that of Odysseus.

Expresses self-pity and rage. Odysseus, in contrast, is always using his intelligence and cunning

13. LE- Why does Odysseus behave in this way (399)?

He is furious w/ the Cyclops and proud that his trick has worked - he is also drawing attention to himself, exactly what he had told his men NOT to do a few moments earlier.

14. LE- How would you characterize Odysseus's judgment (426-428)?

It's clouded by his pride and his desire for fame.
He reveals who he is and where he lives, allowing the
Cyclops to have him pursued and punished.

15. BI- What does this passage (462) suggest about Odysseus's return journey to Ithaca?

*foreshadowing Odysseus's journey home will be long &
difficult.

Literary elements:
epic simile
personification
→ pun

young Dawn with finger-tips of rose touched the world.

