

NAME: Key

BLOCK:

## NOTEBOOK CHECK #6: THE ODYSSEY READING GUIDE

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

### PART TWO:

1. BI- Assess how Odysseus's men must be feeling at the beginning of this journey (6-7). Why might Odysseus feel differently?

The men feel delighted to be starting for home again after a year of captivity. Odysseus must feel less cheerful, knowing that there are serious hardships ahead.

2. RS- How has a change in the weather influenced the actions of the men?

Sequence: The wind has suddenly fallen still. The men stow the sail and began to row.

3. LE- Why are the men disobeying Odysseus? What would happen if they obeyed him?

Conflict: They disobey him here in order to obey his prior order. Otherwise, their ship would be destroyed.

4. LE- What potential conflict is Odysseus trying to avoid here (95-96)? Do you think his is being wise?

Odysseus is avoiding having his men disobey orders. Students may argue that Odysseus knows his men well enough to predict how they will behave.

5. LE- The men are in conflict with both Scylla and Charybdis. Why are the two a particularly dangerous combination?

One is a monster that can kill six men at a time. The other is a whirlpool that can destroy the whole ship.

6. RS- How can you tell that Odysseus's ship has successfully navigated Scylla and Charybdis?

Odysseus and his men are rowing on, leaving behind the rocks, Scylla & Charybdis.

7. BI- What does this passage (176-178) suggest about sea journeys in Homer's time?

Unusual to sail at night.

8. RS- What do the men do before mourning their dead companions?

They eat & drink.

9. RS- What sequence of events is described in lines 218-232?

The men experience a month of windstorms, during which they eat bread and drink red wine. After they eat all the barley, the men fish & hunt; they become thin. Odysseus

10. LE- With whom, or what, are Eurylochus and the other men in conflict?

There is a conflict between what Odysseus has told them - not to kill Helios's cattle - and their own natures, which tell them to do anything to survive. Odysseus prays to the Gods for help.

11. BI- Why would Eurylochus rather drown than starve?

He would rather die in action, attempting to reach home than starve to death.

12. LE- Why has Zeus entered the conflict?

Helios has threatened to stop shining on the earth if Odysseus and his men are not punished. Zeus is not personally angry with Odysseus but agrees to Helios's demand in order to keep the sun in the sky.

13. BI- Is Zeus's action just (338)? Why or why not?

Since the men were forewarned, Zeus's action is just. Or - the gods made it impossible to leave the island, thereby practically assuring the slaughter of the cattle. This manipulation is not really fair.

14. RS- Odysseus has been telling his story to the Phaeacians. When did this narrative begin?

After the Invocation, all of the parts I & II have been retelling.