

The Odyssey by Homer – Summaries and Study Questions

Name _____

Block: _____

Note: You must fill in the answers as you read. Some answers may only be a few words in length.

PLOT SUMMARY

A Greek hero returns to his home and family after 20 years of imprisonment and wandering.

BACKGROUND Odysseus, King of Ithaca, has been away from home for 20 years-10 years fighting in the Trojan War and 10 years wandering. For the last seven years, he has been held captive by the goddess Calypso on her island. In Ithaca, his wife, Penelope, remains faithful and clings to her belief that he is still alive, but she is being courted by a group of men-the suitors-who have forced their attentions on her and are living on Odysseus's wealth. Each of them wants to marry her, but she refuses to make a choice, confident that Odysseus will soon return. She and her son Telemachus are powerless to get rid of them.

Tell the Story – invocation (890)

1. Who are the muses?
2. Who is the “man skilled in all ways of contending” – the protagonist of the story we are about to read?
3. What happened to Odysseus’ men on the way home? (lines 10-15)
4. Which god does not pity Odysseus?
5. What is he/she the god of?
6. Why do you think this might be a problem for Odysseus?

BOOKS 1-4 Athena, goddess of wisdom, asks her father, Zeus, king of the gods, to allow Odysseus to return home, despite the sea god Poseidon’s grudge against Odysseus for having blinded his son.

Important information not included in your Book 1 excerpt:

In the hall of **Zeus** on **Mount Olympus**, all the gods but Poseidon gather and listen as Zeus reflects upon the moral failings of mortal men. He brings up the example of **Aegisthus**, who killed **Agamemnon** and stole his wife **Clytemnestra**, though the gods warned him that **Agamemnon’s son, Orestes**, would someday retaliate - which he justly did. *As you read, think about how Telemachus, Odysseus’s son, is placed in a position similar to that of Orestes. Will Telemachus react in the same manner as Orestes? Will Odysseus’s wife Penelope betray her husband?*

When Zeus agrees, Athena disguises herself as a mortal stranger and visits Telemachus. He receives her kindly despite the suitors’ rudeness. On her advice, he protests the suitors’ behavior, but the suitors refuse to leave Odysseus’s house. Now disguised as Mentor, an old friend of Odysseus, Athena urges Telemachus to visit the neighboring kingdoms in search of news of Odysseus.

Important information not included in your Book 2 excerpt:

During the assembly, **Zeus** sends two eagles—omens of death—to fly over the suitors. **Halitherses**, a prophet, interprets the eagles that fly over the assembly by saying Odysseus is coming home and

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Salem, Erin. “The Odyssey Study Guide: Guided Reading Questions.” *Odyssey*. Carmel Clay Schools, n.d. Web. 22 Sept. 2012.

<<http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/teachers/esalem1/Odyssey/>>

American Odyssey Study Guide

Michael Seilmaier



American Odyssey Study Guide:

The Top Books of the Year American Odyssey Study Guide The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous engrossing novels enthraling the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of popular books, exploring the fascinating narratives that have enthralled audiences this year. American Odyssey Study Guide : Colleen Hoover "It Ends with Us" This touching tale of love, loss, and resilience has gripped readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover masterfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can succeed. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This captivating historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids absorbing storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Discover the Magic : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens spins a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These bestselling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of compelling stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a brilliant and gripping novel that will keep you wondering until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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Table of Contents American Odyssey Study Guide

1. Understanding the eBook American Odyssey Study Guide
 - The Rise of Digital Reading American Odyssey Study Guide
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying American Odyssey Study Guide
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an American Odyssey Study Guide
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from American Odyssey Study Guide
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - American Odyssey Study Guide User Reviews and Ratings
 - American Odyssey Study Guide and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing American Odyssey Study Guide Free and Paid eBooks
 - American Odyssey Study Guide Public Domain eBooks
 - American Odyssey Study Guide eBook Subscription Services
 - American Odyssey Study Guide Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating American Odyssey Study Guide eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - American Odyssey Study Guide Compatibility with Devices
 - American Odyssey Study Guide Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of American Odyssey Study Guide
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking American Odyssey Study Guide
 - Interactive Elements American Odyssey Study Guide
8. Staying Engaged with American Odyssey Study Guide

- Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers American Odyssey Study Guide
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books American Odyssey Study Guide
- Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection American Odyssey Study Guide
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
- Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine American Odyssey Study Guide
- Setting Reading Goals American Odyssey Study Guide
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of American Odyssey Study Guide
- Fact-Checking eBook Content of American Odyssey Study Guide
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
- Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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