

THE ODYSSEY NOTEBOOK CHECK

PART 2: THE WANDERINGS OF ODYSSEUS

BOOKS 5-9

NAME _____ # _____ HOUR _____

DAILY HOMEWORK: FIRST READING FOR VOCABULARY AND TERMINOLOGY MUST BE DONE AT HOME.
ANY UNFINISHED NOTEBOOK CHECKS/CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
MUST BE COMPLETED FOR HOMEWORK.

- NC 1** **BOOK 5 CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH**
CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ CHARACTERIZATION AND RELATED QUESTIONS
- NB 2** **EPIC TEXT STRUCTURE**
NB 2 **BOOKS 6-8 SUMMARY/PARAPHRASING**
- NC 3** **BOOK 9: EPISODE 1**
ODYSSEUS'S INTRODUCTION + THE CICONES
CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ CHARACTERIZATION AND RELATED QUESTIONS
- NC 4** **BOOK 9: EPISODE 2**
THE LOTUS EATERS
CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ CHARACTERIZATION AND RELATED QUESTIONS
- NC 5** **BOOK 9: EPISODE 3**
THE CYCLOPS (THE ISLAND)
CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ CHARACTERIZATION AND RELATED QUESTIONS
- NC 5-7** **BOOK 9: EPISODE 4**
THE CYCLOPS (THE CAVE)
CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ CHARACTERIZATION AND RELATED QUESTIONS
- NC 8-9** **BOOK 9: EPISODE 5**
THE CYCLOPS (THE ESCAPE)
CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ CHARACTERIZATION AND RELATED QUESTIONS
- NC 10** **ANALYZING THE REPRESENTATION OF A SUBJECT IN MULTIPLE MEDIA**

READING AND ANNOTATING INSTRUCTIONS:

This text will be utilized for your test. Do your best to annotate the text fully and completely.

FIRST READ (TO BE DONE AHEAD OF TIME FOR HOMEWORK)

1. BOX and DEFINE terms you do not know by choosing an appropriate synonym that has the same part of speech as the term. Write the synonym above each boxed term to help you better understand the excerpt.
2. Identify the Mythical Terms that are shaded.

SECOND READ (IN CLASS)

1. Identify speakers of dialogue throughout the text to get a better understanding of the characters.
2. Highlight and make note of...
 - specific speakers' dialogue
 - examples of literary elements and figurative language (epithets, epic similes, personification)
 - evidence of the passage of time in the story.
 - important events in the books
 - evidence of the gods intervening
 - the words and details that help you understand Odysseus's character.

FINAL READ (INDIVIDUALLY OR WITH PARTNER/GROUP)

1. Summarize big ideas and events in the text.
2. Use the questions on the right side of the text to guide you and you record your insights and impressions.

Objectives:

- Students will annotate the text to pay closer attention as they read and gain a closer perspective of the text.
- Students will analyze characters in each book and their responses to various kinds of conflict.
- Students will monitor their own learning and begin analyzing the text for patterns, contrasts, epic-specific literary elements, and symbols as they complete multiple readings of the text and answer text specific questions
- Students will make inferences about the impact of the narrator's perspective and its impact on the text.
- Students will provide textual evidence that identify the protagonist's character traits and provide insight into what his actions and reactions reveal about his character.
- Students will identify and search for poetic devices in the text.
- Students will analyze the artist's rendition of a scene from the epic and identify the mood that is being depicted.
- Students will utilize graphic organizers to annotate poetry and analyze the poem for deeper meanings and text structure.
- Students will connect characterization throughout each book and develop a potential themes for the episodes.

Character Traits¹

Able	Energetic	Loving	Rude
Accepting	Excited	Loyal	Sad
Adventurous	Expert	Manipulative	Sarcastic
Aggressive	Fair	Materialistic	Self-confident
Ambitious	Faithful	Mature	Self-conscious
Annoying	Fancy	Melancholy	Selfish
Arrogant	Fighter	Merry	Sensible
Articulate	Forgiving	Mischievous	Sensitive
Awkward	Free	Naïve	Serious
Boastful	Friendly	Nervous	Short
Bold	Friendly	Noisy	Shy
Bossy	Frustrated	Obnoxious	Silly
Brave	Fun-loving	Opinionated	Simple
Busy	Funny	Organized	Smart
Calm	Generous	Outgoing	Stable
Careful	Gentle	Passive	Strong
Careless	Giving	Patient	Stubborn
Cautious	Gracious	Patriotic	Studious
Cheerful	Grouchy	Personable	Successful
Clever	Handsome	Pitiful	Tantalizing
Clumsy	Hard-working	Plain	Tender
Compassionate	Helpful	Pleasant	Tense
Conceited	Honest	Pleasing	Thoughtful
Confident	Hopeful	Popular	Thrilling
Considerate	Humble	Prim	Timid
Cooperative	Humorous	Proper	Tireless
Courageous	Imaginative	Proud	Tolerant
Creative	Impulsive	Questioning	Tough
Curious	Independent	Quiet	Tricky
Daring	Intelligent	Radical	Trusting
Defiant	Inventive	Realistic	Understanding
Demanding	Jealous	Rebellious	Unhappy
Determined	Judgmental	Reflective	Unique
Devout	Keen	Relaxed	Unlucky
Disagreeable	Kind	Reliable	Vain
Disgruntled	Knowledgeable	Religious	Warm
Dreamy	Lazy	Reserved	Wild
Eager	Light-hearted	Respectful	Willing
Efficient	Likeable	Responsible	Wise
Embarrassed	Lively	Reverent	Witty

¹ List adapted from http://www.itl.appstate.edu/reading_resources/Character_Trait_Descriptive_Adjectives.htm

NB 2 BOOK 5: CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH
<CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ AND RELATED QUESTIONS

BOOK
Calypso

*For seven
has been
sends the
help him
Scheria, 1*

No word
who bent
ambrosia
or over e
5 and took
or when
So wand
shot from
and veer
10 between
will dip t
no high
until the
then risi
15 he steppe
the mistr
Upon he
scented t
and smol
20 in her sw
she passe
A deep w
of alder a
Ornate b
25 horned o
beachcom
Around t
held purp
and four
30 shallow a
through

Even a god who found this place
would gaze, and feel his heart beat with delight:
so Hermes did; but when he had gazed his fill
35 he entered the wide cave. Now face to face
the magical Calypso recognized him,
as all immortal gods know one another
on sight—though seeming strangers, far from home.
But he saw nothing of the great Odysseus,
40 who sat apart, as a thousand times before,
and racked his own heart groaning, with eyes wet
scanning the bare horizon of the sea. . . .

Calypso invites Hermes to her table for food and drink, asking why he has come. Hermes explains that he has brought with an order from Zeus that Calypso must not detain Odysseus any longer but send him on his way home. She reluctantly obeys, agreeing to offer Odysseus her advice about how to get home.

The strong god glittering left her as he spoke,
and now her ladyship, having given heed
45 to Zeus's mandate, went to find Odysseus
in his stone seat to seaward—tear on tear
brimming in his eyes. The sweet days of his life time
were running out in anguish over his exile,
for long ago the nymph had ceased to please.
50 Though he fought shy of her and her desire,
he lay with her each night, for she compelled him.
But when day came he sat on the rocky shore
and broke his own heart groaning, with eyes wet
scanning the bare horizon of the sea. ❸
55 Now she stood near him in her beauty, saying:

“O forlorn man, be still.
Here you need grieve no more; you need not feel
your life consumed here; I have pondered it,
and I shall help you go. . . .”

60 Swiftly she turned and led him to her cave,
and they went in, the mortal and immortal.
He took the chair left empty now by Hermes,
where the divine Calypso placed before him
victuals and drink of men; then she sat down
65 facing Odysseus, while her serving maids
brought nectar and ambrosia to her side.
Then each one's hands went out on each one's feast
until they had their pleasure; and she said:

2. Even though Ogygia is beautiful, why is Odysseus unhappy?

3. ❸ **EPIC HERO**
Reread lines 43–54. Which of Odysseus' qualities is emphasized here?

“Son of Laertes, versatile Odysseus,
 70 after these years with me, you still desire
 your old home? Even so, I wish you well.
 If you could see it all, before you go—
 all the adversity you face at sea—
 you would stay here, and guard this house, and be
 75 immortal—though you wanted her forever,
 that bride for whom you pine each day.
 Can I be less desirable than she is?
 Less interesting? Less beautiful? Can mortals
 compare with goddesses in grace and form?”

80 To this the strategist Odysseus answered:

“My lady goddess, here is no cause for anger.
 My quiet Penelope—how well I know—
 would seem a shade before your majesty,
 death and old age being unknown to you,
 85 while she must die. Yet, it is true, each day
 I long for home, long for the sight of home. . . .”

With Calypso's help, Odysseus builds a raft and sets out to sea. For 17 days he sails until he is in sight of Scheria. For 3 more days he is pummeled by storms and finally swims for the island. He makes it safely ashore and crawls to rest under some bushes.

A man in a distant field, no hearthfires near,
 will hide a fresh brand in his bed of embers
 to keep a spark alive for the next day;
 90 so in the leaves Odysseus hid himself,
 while over him Athena showered sleep
 that his distress should end, and soon, soon.
 In quiet sleep she sealed his cherished eyes.

COMMON CORE L.4

Language Coach

Roots and Affixes A word's root often suggests the word's meaning. The Latin root *versare*, from which *versatile* (line 69) is derived, means "to turn often." What do you think *versatile* means?

4. Highlight/Note Calypso's question about Penelope and Odysseus's response.

5. **EPITHET**

Reread Odysseus' answer to Calypso in lines 81–86. Why do you think he is referred to in line 80 as "the strategist Odysseus"? Explain.

6. Highlight/Note what happens to Odysseus in the ocean.

7. How is Odysseus's life spared once again?

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Use Character Traits Reference Sheet	
Odysseus	<p>Highlight and identify/note the motivations for his actions</p>

Summary of Books 5-8:

The story of Odysseus begins again with the gods intervening. Odysseus has been imprisoned by Calypso for seven years: "Though he fought shy of her and her desire, he lay with her each night, for she compelled him./But when day came he sat on the rocky shore and broke his own heart groaning." Though she is not evil, her seductive charms and promises of immortality, threaten to lead Odysseus away from his path back to Penelope. She loves her handsome captive and will not let him go. Zeus, however, can't resist the pleas of his favorite daughter, Athena, so he sends a strongly worded order by way of Hermes to let him go, so Calypso is forced to change her mind. Calypso helps Odysseus make a raft, and he departs, but he does not have smooth sailing. Poseidon learns that his old enemy is attempting to go home and shipwrecks him with a fierce storm. Zeus's daughter Athena steps in to assist Odysseus and helps him to get ashore on the island of Phaeacia.



In Book 6, a lovely teenage princess, Nausica, instructed by Athena, goes to the washing pool to wash her clothes, where she discovers Odysseus, naked and near death, sleeping under a pile of leaves. She takes him home to the palace of her father, King Alcinous, where he is received at court as an unknown guest in Book 7.

In Book 8, the Phaeacians treat Odysseus as a noble guest, ordering a banquet to honor his mystery guest. They urge him to reveal his identity, and he asks the bard to sing about the wooden horse of Troy, essentially he asks for a song about himself. Upon hearing the song, he begins to cry and King Alcinous demands to know his identity. He eventually agrees, reveals himself as the Odysseus, and begins the tale of his travels since leaving the war.

Odysseus meets Princess Nausica on the shores of Scheria

Paraphrase/List what you learned:

"That was the song the famous harper sang but great Odysseus melted into tears, running down from his eyes to wet his cheeks... as a woman weeps, her arms flung round her darling husband, a man who fell in battle, fighting for town and townsmen, trying to beat the day of doom from home and children. Seeing the man go down, dying, gasping for breath, she clings for dear life, screams and shrills--.... So from Odysseus's eyes ran tears of torment now" (6.585-589).

What motivates
Odysseus's actions?

Related Literature: "An Ancient Gesture" by Edna St. Vincent Millay

Like Penelope in the Odyssey, Edna St. Vincent Millay held off many suitors, preferring her independence and writing career to marriage and domestic life. Through her poetry and her life, she came to represent the rebellious, independent, youthful spirit of the 1920s. At age thirty-one, however, she married a man who supported her dedication to her writing and assumed all domestic responsibilities in order to give her time for her literary pursuits.

I thought, as I wiped my eyes on the corner of my apron:
 Penelope did this too.
 And more than once: you can't keep weaving all day
 And undoing it all through the night;
 Your arms get tired, and the back of your neck gets tight;
 And along towards morning, when you think it will never be light,
 And your husband has been gone, and you don't know where, for
 years.
 Suddenly you burst into tears;
 There is simply nothing else to do.

And I thought, as I wiped my eyes on the corner of my apron:
 This is an ancient gesture, authentic, antique,
 In the very best tradition, classic, Greek;
 Ulysses did this too.
 But only as a gesture,—a gesture which implied
 To the assembled throng that he was much too moved to speak.
 He learned it from Penelope...
 Penelope, who really cried.

Paraphrase the poem:

Why does it say that Ulysses' tears were "only as a gesture"?

What is the "assembled throng" referring to?

What does the last line mean?

What do you think Penelope values? Explain.

NC I TEXT STRUCTURE AND BOOKS 5-8 SUMMARY/ PARAPHRASING

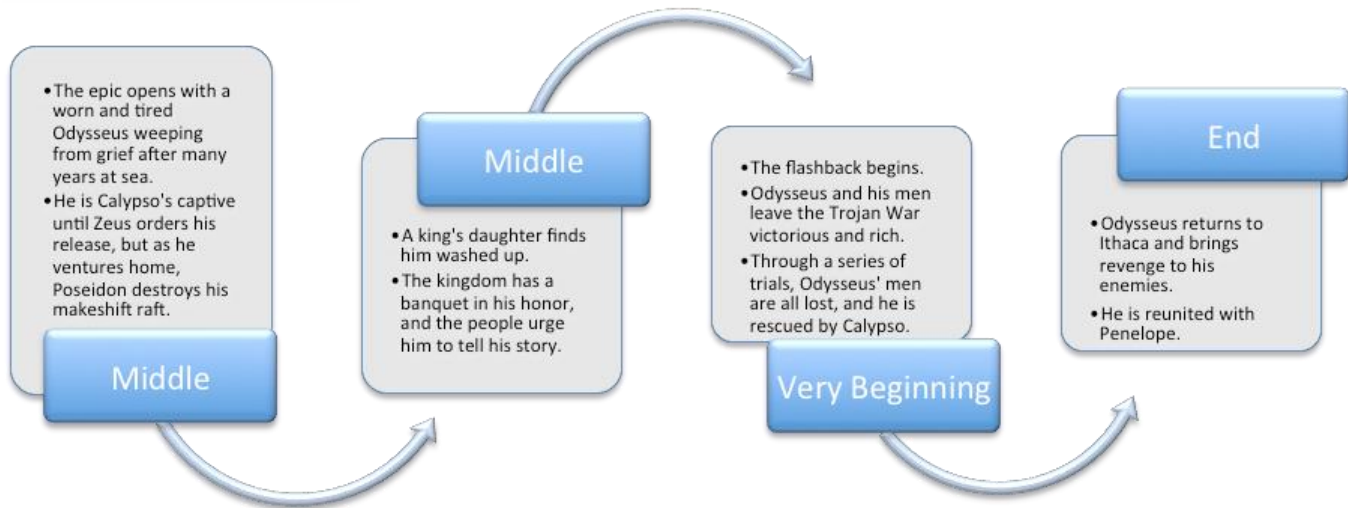
Objectives:

- Students will annotate the text to pay closer attention as they read and gain a closer perspective of the text.
- Students will analyze characters in the Odyssey and their responses to various kinds of conflict.
- Students will monitor their own learning and begin analyzing the text for patterns, contrasts, epic-specific literary elements, and symbols
- Students will provide textual evidence that identify the protagonist's character traits and provide insight into what his actions and reactions reveal about his character.

The events in Books Nine through Twelve are flashbacks being told to the Phaeacians by Odysseus himself. The events of these books reveal how the trials Odysseus faces develop his character from the end of the Trojan War through his time with the Phaeacians.

Text Structure

One feature of the epic is beginning in the middle of the story (*in medias res*). Study the graphic below so that you will understand the text structure.



What is the effect of Homer's choice concerning how to structure a text and the events within it?

NB 2 BOOK 9: EPISODE I ODYSSEUS'S INTRODUCTION AND THE CICONES (CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ AND RELATED QUESTIONS)

DIRECTIONS: First **READ** define the terms that have been bolded for you and identify the mythical terms that are shaded.

Second READ: HIGHLIGHT AND MAKE NOTE OF

- specific speakers' dialogue
- examples of literary elements and figurative language (epithets)
- evidence of the passage of time in the story.
- important events in the books
- evidence of the gods intervening
- the words and details that help you understand Odysseus's character.

FINAL READ: Use the questions on the right side of the text to guide you and you record your insights and impressions.

Odysseus, the great teller of tales, launched out on his story:

"Alcinous, majesty, shining among your island people,

what a fine thing it is to listen to such a **bard**

... as we have here--the man sings like a god....

12 But now you're set on **probing** the bitter pains I've borne

so I'm to weep and grieve, it seems still more.

Well then, what shall I go through first,

15 what shall I save for last?

What pains--the gods have given me my share.

Now let me begin by telling you my name...

so you may know it well and I in times to come,

if I can escape that fatal day, will be your host,

20 your sworn friend, though my home is far from here.

I am Odysseus, son of Laertes, known to the world

for every kind of craft--my fame has reached the skies.

Sunny Ithaca is my home....

30 Mine is a rugged land but good for raising sons--

and I myself, I know no sight on earth

than a man's own native country.

True enough, Calypso the lustrous goddess tried to hold me back,

deep in her arching caverns, craving me for a husband.

So did Circe, holding me just as warmly in her halls,

the bewitching queen of Aeaea **keen** to have me too.

But they never won the heart inside me, never.

So nothing is as sweet as a man's own country,

his own parents, even though he's settled down

40 in some luxurious house, off in a foreign land

and far from those who bore him.

No more. Come,

let me tell you about the voyage **fraught** with hardship

Zeus inflicted on me, homeward bound from Troy . . .

The wind drove me out of Ilium on to Ismarus,

the Cicones' stronghold. There I sacked the city,

killed the men, but as for the wives and **plunder**,

that rich haul we dragged away from the place--

we shared it round so no one, not on my account,

would go deprived of his fair share of spoils.

1. What does the underlined portion tell you about Alcinous?

2. Identify Odysseus's introduction. How many lines does Odysseus use to introduce himself? What is the tone? (the speaker's attitude toward the subject)

3. Highlight and identify/note Odysseus's description of Ithaca.

4. Highlight and identify/note Odysseus's claim about his experiences with Calypso and Circe

5. Highlight and identify/note How Odysseus feels about his home.

6. Highlight and identify/note examples of Odysseus's Character.

Odysseus refers to two beautiful goddesses, Calypso and Circe. At the same time, he seems nostalgic for his family and homeland, from which he has been separated for 18 years, 10 of them spent fighting in Troy

50 Then I urged them to cut and run, set sail,
 but would they listen? Not those **mutinous** fools;
 there was too much wine to **swill**, too many sheep to slaughter
 down along the beach, and shambling longhorn cattle.
 And all the while the Cicones sought out other Cicones,
 55 called for help from their neighbors living inland:
a larger force, and stronger soldiers too,
skilled hands at fighting men from chariots,
 skilled, when a crisis broke, to fight on foot.
 Out of the morning mist they came against us—
 60 packed as the leaves and spears that flower forth in spring—
 and Zeus presented us with disaster, me and my comrades
 doomed to suffer blow on mortal blow.
 Lining up, both armies battled it out against our swift ships,
 both raked each other with hurtling bronze lances.
 Long as morning rose and the blessed day grew stronger
 65 we stood and fought them off, massed as they were, but then,
 when the sun wheeled past the hour for unyoking oxen,
 the Cicones broke our lines and beat us down at last.
 Out of each ship, six men-at-arms were killed;
 the rest of us rowed away from certain doom.
 70 From there we sailed on, glad to escape our death
 yet sick at heart for the dear companions we had lost.
 But I would not let our rolling ships set sail until the crews
 had raised the triple cry, saluting each poor comrade
 cut down by the fierce Cicones on that plain.
 75 Now Zeus who masses the storm clouds hit the fleet
 with the North Wind—a howling, demonic gale, **shrouding over**
in thunderheads the earth and sea at once—
 and night swept down from the sky and the ships went plunging...
 our sails slashed to rags by the hurricane's blast!
 80 We struck them—cringing at death we rowed our ships
 to the nearest shoreline, pulled with all our power.
 There, for two nights, two days, we lay by, no letup,
 eating our hearts out, bent with pain and bone-tired.

First
 Adventur
 e...The
 Cicones

7. Annotate Odysseus's explanation of what happened on Ismarus. What happened? Write a summary of the events below:
8. **Highlight and identify/note** patterns of violent/negative diction.
9. Write notes about the mood in the margin. What was the consequence of the men's choices?
10. Odysseus left Troy with 12 ships. How many men were killed in this episode?
11. Are Odysseus's actions in the Cicones heroic? Why or why not?

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Use Character Traits Reference Sheet	
Odysseus	Highlight and identify/note the motivations for his actions

Consider the following questions as you read and prepare for a class discussion. Briefly note your thoughts and ideas. Be ready to answer with textual evidence.

- How did the epic address the Greeks' belief of gods and goddesses? In what ways did the gods intervene?
- Consider the aspects of the hero's journey? Which part would you categorize the events of Book 9 as?
 How would you characterize Odysseus? Do you believe Odysseus's actions throughout Book 9 are indicative of his ultimate goal of returning home? Why or why not?

BOOK 9: EPISODE 2 THE LOTUS EATERS (CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ AND RELATED QUESTIONS)

REVIEW: Summary of First Adventure...The Cicones

Odysseus explains that soon after leaving Troy, he and his crew land near Ismarus, the city of the Cicones. The Cicones are allies of the Trojans and therefore enemies of Odysseus. Odysseus and his crew raid the Cicones, robbing and killing them, until the Ciconian army kills 72 of Odysseus's men and drives the rest out to sea. Delayed by a storm for two days, Odysseus and his remaining companions then continued their journey.

DIRECTIONS: First READ define the terms that have been bolded for you and identify the mythical terms that are shaded.

Second READ: HIGHLIGHT AND MAKE NOTE OF

- specific speakers' dialogue
- examples of literary elements and figurative language (epithets)
- evidence of the passage of time in the story.
- important events in the books
- evidence of the gods intervening
- the words and details that help you understand Odysseus's character.

FINAL READ: Use the questions on the right side of the text to guide you and you record your insights and impressions.

When Dawn with her lovely locks brought on the third day,
then stepping the masts and **hoisting** white sails high,
we lounged at the oarlocks,

letting the wind and helmsman keep us on true course...

And now, at long last,

I might have reached my native land unscathed,

but just as I doubled Malea's cape, a tide-rip

and the North Wind drove me way off course, 90

careering past Cythera. Nine whole days

I was borne along by rough, deadly winds

on the fish-infested sea. Then on the tenth

our squadron reached **the land of the Lotus-eaters,**

people who eat the lotus, mellow fruit and flower.

We disembarked on the coast, drew water there

and crewmen snatched a meal by the swift ships.

Once we'd had our fill of food and drink I sent

a detail ahead, two picked men and a third, a runner, 100

to scout out who might live there—men like us perhaps,

who live on bread? So off they went and soon enough

they mingled among the natives, Lotus-eaters,

Lotus-eaters who had no notion of killing my companions,

not at all, they simply gave them the lotus to taste instead ...

Any crewmen who ate the lotus, the honey-sweet fruit,

lost all desire to send a message back, much less return,

their only wish to linger there with the Lotus-eaters,

grazing on lotus, all memory of the journey home

dissolved forever. But I brought them back, back 110

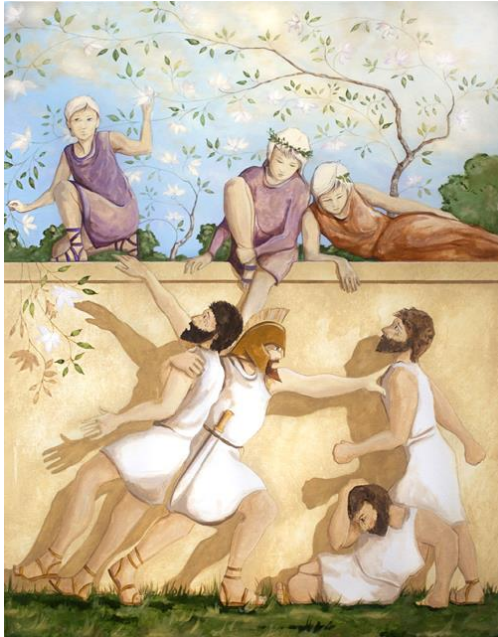
to the hollow ships, and streaming tears—I forced them,

1. **Highlight and identify/note** How long Odysseus and his men stay at sea because of the wind.

2. **Highlight and identify/note** the effect of the Lotus Flower

3. How do the Lotus Eaters pose a threat to Odysseus and his men?

hauled them under the rowing benches, lashed them fast and shouted out commands to my other, steady comrades: 'Quick, no time to lose, embark in the racing ships!' – so none could eat the lotus, forget the voyage home. They swung aboard at once, they sat to the oars in ranks and in rhythm churned the water white with stroke on stroke



Odysseus and his men in the Land of the Lotus Eaters

4. Consider what traits does Odysseus reveal here that set him apart from his men (underlined passage)

5. Describe what you think is happening in the visual.

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Use Character Traits Reference Sheet	
Odysseus	Highlight and identify/note the motivations for his actions

NC 4 BOOK 9: EPISODE 3 THE CYCLOPS (THE ISLAND) CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ AND RELATED QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: First READ define the terms that have been bolded for you and identify the mythical terms that are shaded.

Second READ: HIGHLIGHT AND MAKE NOTE OF

- specific speakers' dialogue
- examples of literary elements and figurative language (epithets)
- evidence of the passage of time in the story.
- important events in the books
- evidence of the gods intervening
- the words and details that help you understand Odysseus's character.

FINAL READ: Use the questions on the right side of the text to guide you and you record your insights and impressions.

Summary: *Just offshore for the land of the Cyclopes is a deserted island with a fine natural harbor. Odysseus and his men spend two comfortable days there. On the second day, overcome by curiosity, Odysseus sails to the mainland with one ship and crew (of the dozen that he left Troy with). He wants to see just what sort of creatures the Cyclopes are.*

From there we sailed on, our spirits now at a low ebb,
and reached the land of the high and mighty Cyclops,
lawless brutes, who trust so to the everlasting gods 120
they never plant with their own hands or plow the soil.
Unsown, unplowed, the earth teems with all they need,
wheat, barley and vines, swelled by the rains of Zeus
to yield a big full-bodied wine from clustered grapes.
They have no meeting place for council, no laws either,
no, up on the mountain peaks they live in arching caverns—
each a law to himself, ruling his wives and children,
not a care in the world for any neighbor.

...

When young Dawn with her rose-red fingers shone once more 190
I called a muster briskly, commanding all the hands,
'The rest of you stay here, my friends-in-arms.
I'll go across with my own ship and crew
and probe the natives living over there.
What are they—violent, savage, lawless?
or friendly to strangers, god-fearing men?'
With that I boarded ship and told the crew
to embark at once and cast off cables quickly.
They swung aboard, they sat to the oars in ranks
and in rhythm churned the water white with stroke on stroke. 200
But as soon as we reached the coast I mentioned—no long trip—
we spied a cavern just at the shore, gaping above the surf,
towering, overgrown with laurel. And here big flocks,
sheep and goats, were stalled to spend the nights,
and around its mouth a yard was walled up
with quarried boulders sunk deep in the earth
and enormous pines and oak-trees looming darkly ...
Here was a giant's lair, in fact, who always pastured
his sheepflocks far afield and never mixed with others.
A grim loner, dead set in his own lawless ways. 210
Here was a piece of work, by god, a monster
built like no mortal who ever supped on bread,
no, like a shaggy peak, I'd say—a man-mountain

Cyclopes
refers to the
creatures in
plural. Cyclops
is singular.

1. Highlight the description of the Land of the Cyclopes.

2. Highlight and identify/note the reasons for Odysseus making this expedition to the island of the Cyclops. Are Odysseus's intentions honorable?

Laurel: a kind
of tree

3. Use one word to describe Odysseus's observations about the Cyclops. Highlight and identify/note evidence that supports your choice.

rearing head and shoulders over the world.

Now then, I told most of my good trusty crew to wait,
to sit tight by the ship and guard her well
while I picked out my dozen finest fighters and off I went.

NOTE THE
EPITHETS

But I took a skin of wine along,
the ruddy, irresistible wine that Maron gave me once,
Euanthes' son, a priest of Apollo, lord of Ismarus, 220
because we'd rescued him, his wife and children,
reverent as we were; he lived, you see, in Apollo's holy grove.

And so in return he gave me splendid gifts,
he handed me seven bars of well-wrought gold,
a mixing-bowl of solid silver, then this wine ...
He drew it off in generous wine-jars, twelve in all,
all unmixed—and such a bouquet, a drink fit for the gods!
No maid or man of his household knew that secret store,
only himself, his loving wife and a single servant.

Whenever they'd drink the deep-red mellow vintage,
twenty cups of water he'd stir in one of wine
and what an aroma wafted from the bowl—
what magic, what a godsend—
no joy in holding back when *that* was poured!
Filling a great goatskin now, I took this wine,
provisions too in a leather sack. A sudden foreboding
told my righting spirit I'd soon come up against
some giant clad in power like armor-plate—
a savage deaf to justice, blind to law.



230

2Polyphemus

240

Our party quickly made its way to his cave
but we failed to find our host himself inside;
he was off in his pasture, ranging his sleek flocks.

So we explored his den, gazing wide-eyed at it all,
the large flat racks loaded with drying cheeses,
the folds crowded with young lambs and kids,
split into three groups—here the spring-born,
here mid-yearlings, here the fresh sucklings
off to the side—each sort was penned apart.

And all his vessels, pails and hammered buckets 250
he used for milking, were brimming full with whey

The cyclops
has
separated
his lambs
into age
groups.

Whey: the
watery part of
milk, which
separates from
the curds, or
solid part,
during the
making of
cheese.

4. Highlight and identify/note what Odysseus brings with him to the land of the cyclopes

5. What does the anecdote about obtaining the wine say about epic journeys?

Character Traits displayed in this episode (Use Character Traits Reference Sheet)

Odysseus	
	Highlight and identify/note the motivations for his actions

NC 5-7 BOOK 9: EPISODE 4 THE CYCLOPS (THE CAVE) CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ AND RELATED QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: First READ define the terms that have been bolded for you and identify the mythical terms that are shaded.

Second READ: HIGHLIGHT AND MAKE NOTE OF

- specific speakers' dialogue
- examples of literary elements and figurative language (epithets)
- evidence of the passage of time in the story.
- important events in the books
- evidence of the gods intervening
- the words and details that help you understand Odysseus's character.

FINAL READ: Use the questions on the right side of the text to guide you and you record your insights and impressions.

From the start my comrades pressed me, pleading hard,

'Let's make away with the cheeses, then come back—

hurry, drive the lambs and kids from the pens

to our swift ship, put out to sea at once!'

But I would not give way—

and how much better it would have been—

not till I saw him, saw what gifts he'd give.

But he proved no lovely sight to my companions.

1. **Odysseus and his men have a chance to get away. Why do they stay?**

There we built a fire, set our hands on the cheeses, 260
offered some to the gods and ate the bulk ourselves
and settled down inside, awaiting his return ...

And back he came from pasture, late in the day,
herding his flocks home, and lugging a huge load
of good dry logs to fuel his fire at supper.

He flung them down in the cave—a jolting crash—
we scuttled in panic into the deepest dark recess.

And next he drove his sleek flocks into the open vault,
all he'd milk at least, but he left the males outside,
rams and billy goats out in the high-walled yard. 270

Then to close his door he **hoisted** overhead
a tremendous, massive slab—
no twenty-two wagons, rugged and four-wheeled,
could budge that boulder off the ground, I tell you,
such an **immense** stone the monster wedged to block his cave!

Then down he squatted to milk his sheep and bleating goats,
each in order, and put a suckling underneath each dam.

And half of the fresh white milk he **curdled** quickly,
set it aside in wicker racks to press for cheese,
the other half let stand in pails and buckets, 280

ready at hand to wash his supper down.

As soon as he'd briskly finished all his chores

he lit his fire and spied us in the blaze and

'Strangers!' he thundered out, 'now who are you?

Where did you sail from, over the running sea-lanes?

Out on a trading spree or roving the waves like pirates,

sea-wolves raiding at will, who risk their lives

to plunder other men?

Offered some to the gods...a portion of the food was offered to secure the gods' goodwill. (such offerings were frequently performed by Greek sailors during difficult journeys.)

The hearts inside us shook,

2. **Underlined sentence: What is**

terrified by his rumbling voice and monstrous hulk.
Nevertheless I found the nerve to answer, firmly, 290
'Men of Achaea we are and bound now from Troy!

Driven far off course by the warring winds,
over the vast gulf of the sea—battling home
on a strange tack, a route that's off the map,
and so we've come to you ...

so it must please King Zeus's plotting heart
We're glad to say we're men of Atrides Agamemnon,
whose fame is the proudest thing on earth these days,
so great a city he sacked, such multitudes he killed!

But since we've chanced on you, we're at your knees 300
in hopes of a warm welcome, even a guest-gift,
the sort that hosts give strangers. That's the custom.
Respect the gods, my friend. We're suppliants—at your mercy!

Zeus of the Strangers guards all guests and suppliants:
strangers are sacred—Zeus will avenge their rights!

'Stranger,' he grumbled back from his brutal heart,
'you must be a fool, stranger, or come from nowhere,
telling me to fear the gods or avoid their wrath!
We Cyclops never blink at Zeus and Zeus's shield
of storm and thunder, or any other blessed god—
we've got more force by far. 310

I'd never spare you in fear of Zeus's hatred,
you or your comrades here, unless I had the urge.
But tell me, where did you moor your sturdy ship
when you arrived? Up the coast or close in?
I'd just like to know.'

So he laid his trap
but he never caught me, no, wise to the world
I shot back in my crafty way, 'My ship?
Poseidon god of the earthquake smashed my ship,
he drove it against the rocks at your island's far cape, 320
dashed it against a cliff as the winds rode us in.
I and the men you see escaped a sudden death.'

Not a word in reply to that, the ruthless brute.
Lurching up, he lunged out with his hands toward my men
and snatching two at once, rapping them on the ground
he knocked them dead like pups—
their brains gushed out all over, soaked the floor—
and ripping them limb from limb to fix his meal
he bolted them down like a mountain-lion, left no scrap,
devoured entrails, flesh and bones, marrow and all! 330
We flung our arms to Zeus, we wept and cried aloud,
looking on at his grisly work—paralyzed, appalled.

Odysseus suggesting about the
misfortunes that occur on a
journey?

3. Allusion: Agamemnon was the
Greek king who led the war against
the Trojans. Consider what
Odysseus says about Agamemnon;
what point is he making about
himself by claiming this
association?

4. What custom is Odysseus
referencing in the boxed text?

5. **Highlight and identify/note**
Cyclops' response to Odysseus
with regard to the gods.

6. **Highlight and identify/note** how the
cyclops behaves toward the Greek
soldiers.

7. Underlined passage: Why does
Odysseus lie to the Cyclops about
his ship?

But once the Cyclops had stuffed his enormous gut
 with human flesh, washing it down with raw milk,
 he slept in his cave, stretched out along his flocks.
 And I with my fighting heart, I thought at first
 to steal up to him, draw the sharp sword at my hip
 and stab his chest where the midriff packs the liver—
 I groped for the fatal spot but a fresh thought held me back.
 There at a stroke we'd finish off ourselves as well— 340
 how could we with our bare hands heave back
 that slab he set to block his cavern's gaping maw?
 So we lay there groaning, waiting Dawn's first light.

When young Dawn with her rose-red fingers shone once more
 the monster relit his fire and milked his handsome ewes,
 each in order, putting a suckling underneath each dam,
 and as soon as he'd briskly finished all his chores
 he snatched up two more men and fixed his meal.
 Well-fed, he drove his fat sheep from the cave,
 lightly lifting the huge doorslab up and away, 350
 then slipped it back in place
 as a hunter flips the lid of his quiver shut.
 Piercing whistles—turning his flocks to the hills
 he left me there, the heart inside me brooding on revenge:
 how could I pay him back? would Athena give me glory?
 Here was the plan that struck my mind as best ...
 the Cyclops' great club: there it lay by the pens,
 olivewood, full of sap. He'd lopped it off to brandish
 once it dried. Looking it over, we judged it big enough
 to be the mast of a pitch-black ship with her twenty oars, 360
 a freighter broad in the beam that plows through miles of sea—
 so long, so thick it bulked before our eyes. Well,
 flanking it now, I chopped off a fathom's length,
 pushed it to comrades, told them to plane it down,
 and they made the club smooth as I bent and shaved
 the tip to a stabbing point. I turned it over
 the blazing fire to char it good and hard,
 then hid it well, buried deep under the dung
 that littered the cavern's floor in thick wet clumps.
 And now I ordered my shipmates all to cast lots— 370
 who'd brave it out with me to hoist our stake and grind it into his eye
 when sleep had overcome him? Luck of the draw:
 I got the very ones I would have picked myself,
 four good men, and I in the lead made five ...

8. What appears to be Odysseus's plan?

Fathom's length: About six feet *reference to water depth

Nightfall brought him back, herding his woolly sheep
 and he quickly drove the sleek flock into the vaulted cavern,
 rams and all—none left outside in the walled yard—

his own idea, perhaps, or a god led him on.
 Then he hoisted the huge slab to block the door
 and squatted to milk his sheep and bleating goats, 380
 each in order, putting a suckling underneath each dam,
 and as soon as he'd briskly finished all his chores
 he snatched up two more men and fixed his meal.
 But this time I lifted a carved wooden bowl,
 brimful of my ruddy wine,
 and went right up to the Cyclops, enticing,
 'Here, Cyclops, try this wine—to top off
 the banquet of human flesh you've bolted down!
 Judge for yourself what stock our ship had stored. 390
 I brought it here to make you a fine libation,
 hoping you would pity me, Cyclops, send me home,
 but your rages are insufferable. You **barbarian**—
 how can any man on earth come visit you after this?
 What you've done outrages all that's right!
 At that he seized the bowl and tossed it off
 and the heady wine pleased him immensely. 'More'—
 he demanded a second bowl—a hearty helping!
 And tell me your name now, quickly,
 so I can hand my guest a gift to warm his heart.
 Our soil yields the Cyclops powerful, full-bodied wine 400
 and the rains from Zeus build its strength. But this,
 this is nectar, ambrosia—this flows from heaven!
 So he declared. I poured him another fiery bowl—
 three bowls I brimmed and three he drank to the last drop,
 the fool, and then, when the wine was swirling round his brain,
 I approached my host with a **cordial**, winning word:
 'So, you ask me the name I'm known by, Cyclops?
 I will tell you. But you must give me a guest-gift
 as you've promised. Nobody—that's my name. Nobody— 410
 so my mother and father call me, all my friends.'
 But he boomed back at me from his ruthless heart,
 'Nobody? I'll eat Nobody last of all his friends—
 I'll eat the others first! That's my gift to you!'

With that he toppled over, sprawled full-length, flat on his back
 and lay there, his massive neck slumping to one side,
 and sleep that conquers all overwhelmed him now
 as wine came spurting, flooding up from his **gullet**
 with chunks of human flesh—he vomited, blind drunk.
 Now, at last, I thrust our stake in a bed of embers 420
 to get it red-hot and rallied all my comrades:
 'Courage—no panic, no one hang back now!
 And green as it was, just as the olive stake
 was about to catch fire—the glow terrific, yes—
 I dragged it from the flames, my men clustering round

9. What is happening?
 Big Idea Summary:

Nectar
 and
 ambrosia
 the drink
 and food
 of the
 gods.

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Use Character Traits Reference Sheet	
Odysseus	Highlight and identify/note the motivations for his actions

as some god breathed enormous courage through us all.

Hoisting high that olive stake with its stabbing point,
straight into the monster's eye they rammed it hard—

I drove my weight on it from above and bored it home

as a shipwright bores his beam with a shipwright's drill 430

that men below, whipping the strap back and forth, whirl

and the drill keeps twisting faster, never stopping—

So we seized our stake with its fiery tip

and bored it round and round in the giant's eye

till blood came boiling up around that smoking shaft

and the hot blast singed his brow and eyelids round the core

and the broiling eyeball burst—

its crackling roots blazed

and hissed—

as a blacksmith plunges a glowing ax or adze

in an ice-cold bath and the metal screeches steam

and its temper hardens—that's the iron's strength— 440

so the eye of the Cyclops sizzled round that stake!

He loosed a hideous roar, the rock walls echoed round

and we scuttled back in terror. The monster wrenched the spike

from his eye and out it came with a red geyser of blood—

he flung it aside with frantic hands, and mad with pain

he bellowed out for help from his neighbor Cyclops

living round about in caves on windswept crags.

Hearing his cries, they lumbered up from every side

and hulking round his cavern, asked what ailed him:

'What, Polyphemus, what in the world's the trouble?

Roaring out in the godsent night to rob us of our sleep.

450

Surely no one's rustling your flocks against your will—

surely no one's trying to kill you now by fraud or force!

'Nobody, friends'—Polyphemus bellowed back from his cave—

'*Nobody's* killing me now by fraud and not by force.'

If you're alone,' his friends boomed back at once,

'and nobody's trying to overpower you now—look,

it must be a plague sent here by mighty Zeus

and there's no escape from that.

You'd better pray to your father, Lord Poseidon.'

460

They lumbered off, but laughter filled my heart

to think how nobody's name—my great cunning stroke—

had duped them one and all. But the Cyclops there,

still groaning, racked with agony, groped around

for the huge slab, and heaving it from the doorway,

down he sat in the cave's mouth, his arms spread wide,

hoping to catch a comrade stealing out with sheep—

such a blithering fool he took me for!

But I was already plotting ...

what was the best way out? how could I find

10. Explain the two epic similes underlined here:



11. Highlight and identify/note the information we just discovered about Polyphemus's family

Adze: an
aslike
tool with
a curved
blade

escape from death for my crew, myself as well? 470
 My wits kept weaving, weaving cunning schemes—
 life at stake, monstrous death staring us in the face—
 till this plan struck my mind as best. That flock,
 those well-fed rams with their splendid thick fleece,
 sturdy, handsome beasts sporting their dark weight of wool:
 I lashed them abreast, quietly, twisting the willow-twigs
 the Cyclops slept on—giant, lawless brute—I took them
 three by three; each ram in the middle bore a man
 while the two rams either side would shield him well. 480
 So three beasts to bear each man, but as for myself?
 There was one bellwether ram, the prize of all the flock,
 and clutching him by his back, tucked up under
 his shaggy belly, there I hung, face upward,
 both hands locked in his marvelous deep fleece,
 clinging for dear life, my spirit steeled, enduring ...
 So we held on, desperate, waiting Dawn's first light.
 As soon as young Dawn with her rose-red fingers shone once more
 the rams went rumbling out of the cave toward pasture,
 the ewes kept bleating round the pens, unmilked, 490
 their udders about to burst. Their master now,
heaving in torment, felt the back of each animal
halting before him here, but the idiot never sensed
my men were trussed up under their thick fleecy ribs.
 And last of them all came my great ram now, striding out,
weighed down with his dense wool and my deep plots.

12. How did Odysseus use his wit in this passage?

13. What does the underlined passage mean?

14. Describe what you think is happening in the visual.

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Use Character Traits Reference Sheet	
Odysseus	Highlight and identify/note the motivations for his actions

NC 8–9 BOOK 9: EPISODE 5 THE CYCLOPS (THE ESCAPE) CLOSE READING/ANNOTATIONS/ AND RELATED QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: First **READ** define the terms that have been bolded for you and identify the mythical terms that are shaded. Second **READ:** **HIGHLIGHT AND MAKE NOTE OF**

- **specific speakers' dialogue**
- **examples of literary elements and figurative language (epithets)**
- **evidence of the passage of time in the story.**
- **important events in the books**
- **evidence of the gods intervening**
- **the words and details that help you understand Odysseus's character.**

FINAL READ: Use the questions on the right side of the text to guide you and you record your insights and impressions.

Stroking him gently, powerful Polyphemus murmured,
 'Dear old ram, why last of the flock to quit the cave?
 In the good old days you'd never lag behind the rest—
 you with your long marching strides, first by far
 of the flock to graze the fresh young grasses,
 first by far to reach the rippling streams,
 first to turn back home, keen for your fold
 when night comes on—but now you're last of all.
 And why? Sick at heart for your master's eye
 that coward gouged out with his wicked crew?—
 only after he'd stunned my wits with wine—
 that, that Nobody ...
 who's not escaped his death, I swear, not yet.
 Oh if only you thought like *me*, had words like *me*
 to tell me where that scoundrel is cringing from my rage!
 I'd smash him against the ground, I'd spill his brains—
 flooding across my cave—and that would ease my heart
 of the pains that good-for-nothing Nobody made me suffer!'

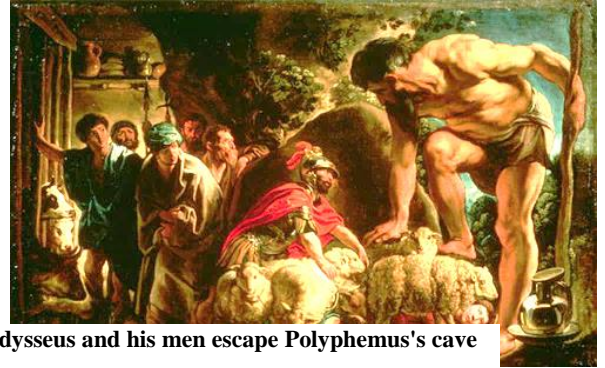
500

510

And with that threat he let my ram go free outside.
 But soon as we'd got one foot past cave and courtyard,
 first I loosed myself from the ram, then loosed my men,
 then quickly, glancing back again and again we drove
 our flock, good plump beasts with their long sharks,
 straight to the ship, and a welcome sight we were
 to loyal comrades—we who'd escaped our deaths—
 but for all the rest they broke down and **wailed**.
 I cut it short, I stopped each shipmate's cries,
 my head tossing, brows frowning, silent signals
 to hurry, tumble our fleecy herd on board,
 launch out on the open sea!
 They swung aboard, they sat to the oars in rank;
 and in rhythm churned the water white with stroke on stroke.
 But once offshore as far as a man's shout can carry,
 I called back to the Cyclops, stinging taunts:
 'So, Cyclops, no weak coward it was whose crew
 you bent to devour there in your vaulted cave—
 you with your brute force! Your filthy crimes

520

530



3Odysseus and his men escape Polyphemus's cave

1. **Highlight and identify/note** what Polyphemus notices as he sets his rams loose to roam

2. **Polyphemus Character Traits:**
Highlight evidence from the text that supports your answer.

3. **Highlight and identify/note** the reactions of Odysseus's crew upon his return.

came down on your own head, you shameless cannibal,
daring to eat your guests in your own house—
so Zeus and the other gods have paid you back!

Odysseus
assumes
that the
gods are
on his side.

That made the rage of the monster boil over.
Ripping off the peak of a towering **crag**, he heaved it
so hard the boulder landed just in front of our dark prow
and a huge swell reared up as the rock went plunging under— 540
a tidal wave from the open sea. The sudden backwash drove us landward again, forcing us close
inshore

The peak
is the top
of a
hilltop

but grabbing a long pole, I thrust us off and away,
tossing my head for dear life, signaling crews
to put their backs in the oars, escape grim death.
They threw themselves in the labor, rowed on fast
but once we'd plowed the breakers twice as far,
again I began to taunt the Cyclops—men around me
trying to check me, calm me, left and right:
'So headstrong—why? Why **rile** the beast again?' 550

'That rock he flung in the sea just now, hurling our ship
to shore once more—we thought we'd die on the spot!'

'If he'd caught a sound from one of us, just a whisper,
he would have crushed our heads and ship timbers
with one heave of another flashing, jagged rock!'

'Good god, the brute can throw!'

So they begged
but they could not bring my fighting spirit round.
I called back with another burst of anger, 'Cyclops—
if any man on the face of the earth should ask you
who blinded you, shamed you so—say Odysseus, 560
raider of cities, he gouged out your eye,
Laertes' son who makes his home in Ithaca!'

So I vaunted and he groaned back in answer,
'Oh no, no—that prophecy years ago ...
it all comes home to me with a vengeance now!
We once had a **prophet** here, a great tall man,
Telemus, Eurymus' son, a master at reading signs,
who grew old in his trade among his fellow-Cyclops.
All this, he warned me, would come to pass someday—
that I'd be blinded here at the hands of one Odysseus. 570
But I always looked for a handsome giant man to cross my path,
some fighter clad in power like armor-plate, but now,
look what a dwarf, a spineless good-for-nothing,
stuns me with wine, then gouges out my eye!

4. NOTICE EPITHETS

5. Odysseus uses the epithet "raider of cities" in his second boast to the Cyclops. What trait does he display in revealing so much about himself?

6. Polyphemus tells of a prophecy made long ago by Telemus, a prophet who predicted that Polyphemus would lose his eye at the hands of Odysseus. How have the actual events turned out differently from what Polyphemus expected? Why is Polyphemus so upset?

Come here, Odysseus, let me give you a guest-gift
and urge Poseidon the earthquake god to speed you home.
I am his son and he claims to be my father, true,
and he himself will heal me if he pleases—
no other blessed god, no man can do the work!

'Heal you!'—

here was my parting shot—'Would to god I could strip you 580
of life and breath and ship you down to the House of Death
as surely as no one will ever heal your eye,
not even your earthquake god himself!
But at that he bellowed out to lord Poseidon,
thrusting his arms to the starry skies, and prayed, 'Hear me—
Poseidon, god of the sea-blue mane who rocks the earth!
If I really am your son and you claim to be my father—
come, grant that Odysseus, raider of cities,
Laertes' son who makes his home in Ithaca,
never reaches home. Or if he's fated to see 590
his people once again and reach his well-built house
and his own native country, let him come home late
and come a broken man—all shipmates lost,
alone in a stranger's ship—
and let him find a world of pain at home!'

So he prayed

and the god of the sea-blue mane Poseidon heard his prayer.
The monster suddenly hoisted a boulder—far larger—
wheeled and heaved it, putting his weight behind it,
massive strength, and the boulder crashed close, 600
landing just in the wake of our dark stern,
just failing to graze the rudder's bladed edge.
A huge swell reared up as the rock went plunging under,
yes, and the tidal breaker drove us out to our island's
far shore where all my well-decked ships lay moored,
clustered, waiting, and huddled round them, crewmen
sat in anguish, waiting, chafing for our return.
We beached our vessel hard ashore on the sand,
we swung out in the frothing surf ourselves,
and herding Cyclops' sheep from our deep holds
we shared them round so no one, not on my account, 610
would go deprived of his fair share of spoils.
But the splendid ram—as we meted out the flocks
my friends-in-arms made him my prize of honor,
mine alone, and I slaughtered him on the beach
and burnt his thighs to Cronus' mighty son,
Zeus of the thundercloud who rules the world.
But my sacrifices failed to move the god:
Zeus was still obsessed with plans to destroy

7. Highlight and identify/note/number the parts of Polyphemus's curse.



THE CYCLOPS IN HIS WRATH BRAKE OFF THE TOP OF A GREAT HILL

8. Comprehension: How has Odysseus brought the curse upon himself?
9. Based on what you know about Odysseus's journey home from the invocation, how does this passage impact the events of his future?
10. Highlight and identify/note what Odysseus does with Polyphemus's rams? How does it connect to Greek religious beliefs?

my entire oar swept fleet and loyal crew of comrades.
 Now all day long till the sun went down we sat 620
 and feasted on sides of meat and heady wine.
 Then when the sun had set and night came on
 we lay down and slept at the water's shelving edge.
 When young Dawn with her rose-red fingers shone once more
 I roused the men straightway, ordering all crews
 to man the ships and cast off cables quickly.
 They swung aboard at once, they sat to the oars in ranks
 and in rhythm churned the water white with stroke on stroke.
 And from there we sailed on, glad to escape our death
 yet sick at heart for the comrades we had lost." 630

1. **Highlight and identify/note**
 how the men feel about the
 loss of their comrades?

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Use Character Traits Reference Sheet	
Odysseus	Highlight and identify/note the motivations for his actions



Arnold Böcklin, *Odysseus and Polyphemus* (1896)

1. What do you see being depicted in the painting?

2. Using the mood word reference sheet, list words that describe the mood of the painting (consider each character)

3. Create a descriptive statement about the painting:

Template: While Odysseus is _____, the others in the painting are _____.

The mood of the painting can be described as _____, which communicates the idea that _____.

4. Is this how you depicted the scene in your mind? Why or Why not?

In the space below, explain how Odysseus is a complex character. (Use the tables with Odysseus's Character Traits to help with

your answer). Provide examples from the text.

Connecting Characterization to Theme: Book 9	
Theme is the central message in a literary work or a piece of art	
Thematic statements should...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Be declarative sentences.▪ Be universal in nature; they should not be bound by time period, genre, culture, etc.▪ Reveal truths about human nature.	
A thematic idea is a word that describes some aspect of the human condition examined by the work.	A thematic statement is a sentence that describes how the author's or artist's vision about the human condition is revealed.
Bravery Hubris Ingenuity Foolishness	

NC 10 Analyzing the Representation of a Subject in Multiple Media

“The Cyclops in the Ocean”

By Nikki Giovanni

Moving slowly...against time...patiently majestic...

The Cyclops...in the ocean...meets no Ulysses

Through the night...he sighs...throbbing against the shore...declaring...for the adventure

A wall of gray...gathered by a slow touch...slash and slither...through the waiting screens...separating into nodules...making my panes...accept the touch...

Not content...to watch my frightened gaze...he clamors beneath the sash...dancing to my sill...

Certain to die...when the sun...returns...

Tropical Storm Dennis August 15-18, 1981, Florida

1. Define Tropical Storm

2. Highlight/circle all the pronouns in the poem.

3. Ulysses is the Roman name of Odysseus. What do you think would have happened to the Cyclops in the Odyssey if Ulysses/Odysseus had not met him?

4. List other creatures or natural phenomena that exhibit qualities of the Cyclops:

What traits of the Cyclops are similar to those of a storm?

5. “The Cyclops in the Ocean” personifies Tropical Storm Dennis by comparing it to the Cyclops. Identify examples of personification in the margin of the poem.

6. Sound: Underline examples of alliteration.
Which words in the poem are onomatopoeia (imitate sounds)?
What do the sounds in the poem suggest?

7. What are screens, panes, sash and sill all related to?
What do those words suggest about the literal point of view of the speaker?

8. An allusion is something that is said or written that intentionally makes you think of a particular thing or person. What does the allusion of the Odyssey imply about the tropical storm? (What does the comparison of a tropical storm to the Cyclops suggest? Why is the metaphor of the Cyclops appropriate for describing a tropical storm?)

