

BOOK 1: THAT INGENIOUS HERO

Identify Places and Characters:

Hyperion	<i>the sun god; a Titan sometimes referred to as Helios</i>
Calypso	<i>daughter of Atlas; nymph on the island of Ogygia</i>
Aegisthus	<i>(ay-gis-thus) a cousin to Agamemnon who killed him in Argos with Clytemnestra's help</i>
Orestes	<i>(ohr-es-teez) son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra; killed Aegisthus and his mother to avenge his father's death</i>
Atlas	<i>Titan father of Calypso; holds columns to separate the sky from the earth</i>
Polyphemus	<i>(pah-luh-fee-muhs) king of the Cyclopes; son of Poseidon and Thoosa; blinded by Odysseus</i>
Dulichium, Same, & Zacynthus	<i>neighboring islands to Ithaca under the rule of Odysseus</i>
Antinous	<i>(an-ti-no-uhs) son of Eupeithes; Ithacan leader of the suitors; suitor Penelope hates most</i>
Eurymachus	<i>son of Polybus; a leading suitor and Ithacan</i>

Comprehension Questions:

1. Which god harbored resentment against Odysseus, preventing him from returning home?

Why was this god so furious? _____

2. Odysseus' son, _____, was visited by _____. What disguise did this visitor take? Why? _____

3. Who sang and played the lyre for the rowdy crowd of suitors in the house of Odysseus?

4. Why did the disguised visitor say, "You are too old to plead infancy any longer; have you not heard how people are singing Orestes' praises for having killed his father's murderer, Aegisthus? You are a fine, smart-looking fellow; show your mettle, then, and make yourself a name in story"? _____

5. What specific instructions did the disguised visitor give to Telemachus? _____

6. Antinous said, “The gods seem to have given you a lesson in bluster and tall talking.” To whom was he saying this? Why? _____

7. Who was Euryclea? _____

8. Who was Laertes? _____

Quotations:

- “Tell me, O Muse, of that ingenious hero who traveled far and wide after he had sacked the famous town of Troy. Many cities did he visit, and many were the nations with whose manners and customs he was acquainted; moreover he suffered much by sea while trying to save his own life and bring his men safely home; but do what he might he could not have his men, for they perished through their own sheer folly in eating the cattle of the Sun-god Hyperion; so the god prevented them from ever reaching home. Tell me, too, about all these things, O daughter of Zeus, from whatsoever source you may know them.”
– **Homer’s appeal to the Muse**
- “If Odysseus is the man he then was, these suitors will have a short shrift and a sorry wedding.”
– **Athene disguised as Mentos to Telemachus**
- “But there! It rests with heaven to determine whether he is to return, and take his revenge in his own house or no; I would, however, urge you to set about trying to get rid of these suitors at once.”
– **Athene as Mentos**
- “You are a fine, smart-looking fellow; show your mettle, then, and make yourself a name in story.”
– **Athene as Mentos**

Discussion Questions:

1. The *Odyssey* begins with Telemachus, not Odysseus. In your opinion, why is this?

BOOK 2: TELEMACHUS ACTS

Identify Places and Characters:

Antiphus	<i>son of Aegyptius; eaten by the Cyclops; Aegyptius suspects that he is dead</i>
Icarius	<i>father of Penelope; brother of Tyndareus; uncle of Helen and Clytemnestra</i>
Tyro	<i>Neleus' mother by Poseidon; Nestor's grandmother; seen in Hades (Book 11)</i>
Alcmena	<i>granddaughter of Perseus; mortal mother of Heracles by Zeus</i>
Mycene	<i>legendary mother of Argus, Hera's giant; Mycenae gets its name from her</i>
Noemon	<i>son of Phronius who lends his ship to Telemachus for the voyage to Pylos</i>

Comprehension Questions:

1. Telemachus identified two great misfortunes that had fallen upon his house. What were they?

2. After Telemachus made his speech to the suitors, _____ chided him. What was this suitor's argument for remaining in Odysseus' house? _____

3. Identify four reasons that Telemachus could not force his mother to remarry. _____

4. Who was Halitherses? What did he specifically tell the suitors? _____

5. Were Telemachus to discover that his father was still alive, how long would he put up with the suitors' misbehaving and waste? _____
- _____
6. Who was Mentor? With which men in Ithaca was he most angry? _____
- _____
- _____
7. _____ was produced in Ephyra, the location of the oracle of the dead.
8. At the end of Book 2, Telemachus sailed toward _____ and _____.

Quotations:

- “The sons of all the chief men among you are pestering my mother to marry them against her will. They are afraid to go to her father Icarius, asking him to choose the one he likes best, and to provide marriage gifts for his daughter, but day by day they keep hanging about my father’s house, sacrificing our oxen, sheep, and fat goats for their banquets, and never giving so much as a thought to the quantity of wine they drink. No estate can stand such recklessness. We have now no Odysseus to ward off harm from our doors, and I cannot hold my own against them. I shall never all my days be as good a man as he was; still I would indeed defend myself if I had power to do so, for I cannot stand such treatment any longer; my house is being disgraced and ruined. Have respect, therefore, to your own consciences and to public opinion. Fear, too, the wrath of heaven, lest the gods should be displeased and turn upon you. I pray you by Zeus and Themis, who is the beginning and the end of councils, do not hold back, my friends, and leave me singlehanded – unless it be that my brave father Odysseus did some wrong to the Achaeans which you would now avenge on me, by aiding and abetting these suitors. Moreover, if I am to be eaten out of house and home at all, I had rather you did the eating yourselves, for I could then take action against you to some purpose, and serve you with notices from house to house till I got paid in full, whereas now I have no remedy.”

With this Telemachus dashed his staff to the ground and burst into tears. Everyone was very sorry for him, but they all sat still and no one ventured to make him an angry answer, save only Antinous ...

– **Telemachus to the assembled Achaeans**

- “Sons are seldom as good men as their fathers; they are generally worse, not better.”
- **Athene disguised as Mentor to Telemachus**

Discussion Questions:

1. What similarities between the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* have you noticed so far? Differences?