

The Odyssey Background Notes

- I. Greek Myths: Sacred stories of diverse cultures and civilizations that make up the mythology of the world. They demonstrate core elements of many belief systems and religions.
 - A. Why are there different versions of Greek myths?
They were created before the invention of writing (translation/interpretation errors)
- II. The Epic & Epic Hero
- III. Homer
- IV. Oral History
- V. Background to Illiad: The Trojan War
- VI. Epic Conventions
 - A. _____
 1. A formal plea for help to the Muse Calliope.
 - B. _____
 1. The epic plunges right into the action -- it begins "in the middle of things."
 2. Flashbacks provide background information.
 - C. _____
 1. A descriptive phrase used in place of a noun or proper noun.
 2. "Grey-eyed Athena"
 - D. Key Themes
 1. Xenia –
 2. Hubris –
 3. Kleos -
 - E. Epic Similes
Define:
 1. *Example 1 - "She brushed it away from his skin as lightly as when a mother brushes a fly away from her child who is lying in sleep."*
 - a) What two events are being compared?
 - (1) A mother brushing a fly away from her child
 - (2) Athena protecting King Menelaus from an arrow
 - b) Which event is "epic" and which is "everyday"?
 - c) What is the effect of the Homeric/Epic simile? In other words, what is Homer trying to convey using this comparison?
 - d) Complete Explanation: In this epic simile, Homer describes the way Athena protects King Menelaus from being injured from an arrow to the way a mother guards her child from being agitated by flies. Homer probably uses this comparison to show how nurturing and protecting Athena is, just as a mother is with her child.
 2. *Example 2 - Her mind in torment, wheeling like some lion at bay, dreading the gangs of hunters closing their cunning ring around him for the finish.*
 - a) What two events are being compared?
 - a) Explain. What is the effect of the Homeric/Epic simile? In other words, what is Homer trying to convey using this comparison?
- VII.
 2. *Example 3 - "Weak as the doe that beds down her fawns in a mighty lion's den - her newborn sucklings - then trails off to the mountain spurs and grassy bends to graze her fill, but back the lion comes to his own lair and the master deals both fawns a ghastly, bloody death, just what Odysseus will deal that mob - ghastly death."*
 - a) What two events are being compared?
The newborn fawns to the death
 - b) Explain. What is the effect of the Homeric/Epic simile? In other words, what is Homer trying to convey using this comparison?
He's trying to signify upcoming death.

Hero's Journey Notes

Link to Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XevCvCLdKCU&ab_channel=CrashCourse

1. Define "monomyth" or "the hero's journey." What is it?

The typical journey a hero goes through

2. According to Joseph Campbell, what is the significance of learning about the mythological hero?

Heroes tell us something about ourselves. We are all heroes struggling to accomplish our own adventure.

3. How many parts and subparts comprise "the hero's journey"? Outline all of the parts below.

Outline of Hero's Journey:

- Separation
 - The Call to Adventure
 - Refusal of the Call
 - Supernatural Aid
 - Crossing the Threshold
- Trials and Victors of Initiation
 - The Belly of the Whale
 - The Road of Trials
 - The Meeting with the Goddess
 - Woman as Temptress
 - Atonement with the Father
 - Apotheosis
 - The Ultimate Boon
 - Refusal of the Return
- Return
 - The Magic Flight
 - Rescue from without
 - Crossing the return threshold
 - Master of the two worlds
 - Freedom to live

4. Group Project: As a group, pick a popular movie or children's story and map out the "hero's journey" using that movie/story. Work together, but everyone in the group must map out that movie/story in their notes (here). During presentations, have 1 person share their screen so that the class can see your map. Split up the speaking roles so that everyone has an equal speaking part.

(Zootopia)

- Separation
 - The call to adventure: Judy Hopps gets bullied
 - Crossing the threshold: Her be determined to go to the police academy
- Trials and Victors of Initiation
 - The belly of the whale: Judy Hopps leaves the countryside and goes to the city
 - The road of trials:
 - Everyone looks down on her
 - She's given parking duty
 - The Meeting with the Goddess: She finds out that the fox isn't bad
 - Atonement with the father: Bongo gives opportunity for the missing otter case
 - Apotheosis: She solves the case
 - The Ultimate Boon: She gets respect from everyone and becomes friends with the fox (also becomes policeman)
- Return: No Return

Odyssey Tracking Chart

Book	Hero's Journey (Identify parts of "hero's journey" from "hero's journey notes.")	Major Themes - Xenia, Hubris, Kleos (Take notes of quotes/examples that demonstrate theme & explain.)	Epic Similes/Epithets (Take notes of epic similes/epithets & explain effect.)
1 Setting/Quick Summary: Setting: In Olympus, where the gods are discussing. Summary: The gods are talking about saving Odysseus, the only one who hasn't returned home from the Trojan War. The gods decide to help Odysseus In Telemachus' house There are suitors being found for Telemachus' mother Athena visits Telemachus in disguise and presents a plan to him to seek his father.	Call to Adventure- Telemachus is called to find his father Refusal of call- Telemachus no longer has hope that his father is coming back Supernatural Aid- Athena helps Telemachus to find his father.	Xenia – "Greetings, stranger. You are welcome here. After you've had dinner, you can tell us what you need" (1.132-133). This quote shows hospitality towards Athena. Hubris - "May the son of Cronus never make you king here on Ithaca, even if it is your birthright". This represents Hubris because the suitors are just barging into Telemachus' house and courting his mother openly. This shows the suitors pride/confidence. Kleos - "But I will be master of my own house and of the servants that Odysseus left me". Because Kleos can be passed, this shows that Telemachus is in charge with what Odysseus left him	Grey-Eyed Athena She has gray eyes, described her appearance Zeus- the Father of Gods and Men Shows his superiority among others

<p>4</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p> <p>Telemachus meets with Meneleus and Helen at their home to ask if they know anything of his father and his whereabouts. Meneleus then tells his story of him going home, and what he knows of Odysseus.</p>	<p>Continuation of the 1st threshold</p>	<p>1) Xenia – 2) “[Telemachus] went straight to the porch, / Indignant that a guest had been made to wait so long” (1.29-30). 3) Telemachus contrasts with the suitors here; they do not display xenia towards Athena, but Telemachus does even though he does not know that the “Taphian captain” in front of him is actually a goddess.</p> <p>Hubris is shown by Penelope's suitors because they were foolish to think that they can take the place of Odysseus Another example of Hubris is Ajax's fate. He decided to boast about how he survived the deep without the gods, so Poseidon decided to sink the side of the rock Ajax was on to drown him.</p> <p>Xenia is shown when Helen and Menelaus entertain and welcome Telemachus and Peisistratus Xenia(pg256)-Menelaus here says that he would give Telemachus a welcome that no other Greek could ever hope to have, which shows his hospitality. It shows that he respects his guest, Telemachus. Xenia(pg260)-Helen shows hospitality to her guests when she provides comfortable and fancy beds for her guests to sleep in.</p> <p>Kleos is shown with the encounter between the Old One and king Menelaus and his men in order to figure out if they can go home or not. Kleos(pg 257)-Here it is shown that kleos was passed down between family members. In this case, Dawn, Memnon's father, had a reputation of being wise and clear. Memnon had carried on the reputation of his father so Menelaus had referred to Memnon's father as having a wise and clear speech.</p>	<p>Menelaus talking about the suitors, “those dogs! Those puny weaklings wanting to sleep in the bed of a hero!” Dogs in the old times were meant as an insult</p> <p>“A doe might as well bed her suckling fawns in the lair of a lion, leaving them there in the bush and then going off over the hills looking for grassy fields. When the lion comes back, the fawns die and ugly death.”</p> <p>This is saying the suitors are as weak as fawns as Odysseus is strong as a lion “dawn brushed her pale rose fingers across the sky”</p> <p>Imagery of dawn, but they also have a dawn goddess called Eos, so it might be referring to her</p> <p>Menelaus The red-haired king Eidothea The shining goddess</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p> <p>The Gods gathered on Olympus without Poseidon and they talk about what they should do about Telemachus and Odysseus and Athena convinces the Gods to let Odysseus off Calypso's island. So, Zeus sends a messenger to Calypso and she sets him free and gives him the necessary supplies to sail off, and then Poseidon sees him free from the Island and he is enraged. He takes out his anger on Odysseus and punishes him with his wrath by summoning giant waves and almost drowns him several times.</p>	<p>Supernatural Aid: The Gods (Athena) help him</p> <p>Road of trials When Poseidon tries to kill him, but he narrowly escapes</p> <p>Refusal of the call Odysseus when called back to home doesn't want to go back because he thinks that it is a trap. He does go start sailing after Calypso convinces him to.</p>	<p>Xenia:</p> <p>"Politely, as she seated him on a lacquered chair: ... The goddess spoke and then set a table. (5.87)Because Hermes was a god, calypso would treat him with very much respect.</p> <p>“Poor man. Why are you so odious to Poseidon, Odysseus, that he sows all this grief for you?” This shows the consequence of not obeying the gods. Goddess Ino explained to him that this storm was caused by his disobedience and rebellious actions.</p> <p>Hubris:</p> <p>"I will not obey. I've seen with my own eyes how far that land is where she says I'll be saved. I'll play it the way that seems best to me." (5.360-362) Kleos- Three times, four times luckier than I/ Were the Greeks who died on Troy's wide plain! I would have had a burial then, honored by the army. As it is I am doomed to a wretched death at sea” Odysseus speaks in such a negative tone as he knew his death was inevitable. He wished he died in a more heroic way to achieve the honor and glory he thirsted for.</p>	<p>Epic Similes:</p> <p>"hard as a windstorm blasting piles of dry parched chaff" The effect it creates is that it makes Poseidon's waves sound very strong and powerful. -he waves that toss</p> <p>"All the sea was like a cauldron seeing over intense fire, when the mixture suddenly heaves and rises." The effect this has is making the reader think that the sea is very powerful and intense and is moving in all sorts of directions chaotically like ingredients in a cauldron.</p> <p>"He stiffened, and shot back at her words fletched like arrows"(pg.274)(5.170-171) -shows his aggressiveness in his words</p> <p>-Pell-mell the rollers tossed her along down-current/wild as the north wind tossing thistle along the fields/at high harvest -the way in which the waves are tossing Odysseus's boat is compared to the way in which grain is tossed in the wind</p> <p>Epithets:</p> <p>The thunder king, Zeus</p> <p>the sea's broad back Odysseus, man of exploits Calypso, lustrous goddess</p>
<p>6 and 8</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p> <p>Book 6: Setting: Near the river</p> <p>Athena appears in Nausicaa's dream, telling her to go wash her clothes at the river. At the river, she meets Odysseus. Athena then makes Odysseus look more handsome, and then Nausicaa leads him to the city.</p>	<p>Supernatural Aid: Athena sends Nausicaa's dreams, she also makes Odysseus look handsome in front of her. These two chapters were basically part of Athena's plan.</p>	<p>Xenia:</p> <p>"This poor man comes here as a wanderer, and we must take care of him now. All strangers, all beggars, are under the protection of Zeus. And even small gifts are welcome. So let's feed this stranger, give him something to drink, and bathe him in the river, out of the wind" (6.211-216) Nausicaa is saying to the other girls that Odysseus means no harm, that they should treat him as a guest.</p> <p>Hubris:</p> <p>"Challenged by a young Phaeacian and aided by Athena, Odysseus throws the discus much farther than anyone else"</p>	<p>"Grey-eyed goddess", "the Grey-eyed One", "owl-eyed goddess" - Describes Athena.</p> <p>"Of great-hearted Alcinous, the Phaeacians' lord" Portrays Alcinous as a kind person.</p> <p>"A stranger and suppliant is as dear as a brother" (8.591) Shows Xenia (guest friendliness).</p>

<p>Book 8: Setting: Feast with Alcinous</p> <p>Demodocus sings about the Trojan horse, but Odysseus gets sad and the king asks Demodocus to stop. Then the king asks for Odysseus' name and other details.</p>		<p>(8.1-489) If we read those lines the story says that Broadsea (the young Phaeacian) insults him and then challenges him, thus showing his confidence of winning.</p> <p>Kleos:</p> <p>"I don't know whether it was the Muse who taught you, or Apollo himself, but I praise you to the skies, Demodocus" (8.523-525) Here Odysseus is praising Demodocus for his musical talents. He is good at playing the harp.</p> <p>"This is their country, and I am the daughter of great-hearted Alcinous, the Phaeacians' lord" (6.201-202) Nausicaa can inherit her fathers glory.</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p> <p>Odysseus tells Alcinous his story. To sum it up, he was cursed by Zeus, they were sent to the land of the Lotus-Eaters and Cyclops. At the land of the Cyclops, they encounter Polyphemus, and eventually Odysseus gets away using wit. However, they are still grieving for their lost comrades.</p>	<p>Crossing the 1st threshold: "Zeus sent me on when I sailed from Troy" (9.41)</p> <p>Road of Trials: Lotus-Eaters, Cyclops.</p>	<p>Xenia:</p> <p>"Nothing we do is sweeter than this - a cheerful gathering of all the people sitting side by side throughout the halls, feasting and listening to a singer of tales. The tables filled with food and drink" (9.5-9) Just like Book 6, this shows that king Alcinous treats his guests well.</p> <p>Hubris:</p> <p>"That was my order, but the fools wouldn't listen. They drank a lot of wine and slaughtered a lot of sheep and cattle on the shore." (9.47-49). Because Odysseus' comrades were very prideful and didn't take in Odysseus' warnings seriously, they would have to suffer the consequences later on</p> <p>Kleos:</p> <p>"Hear me, Poseidon, blue-maned Earth-Holder, if you are the father you claim to be. Grant that Odysseus, son of Laertes, may never reach his home on Ithaca" Polyphemus uses his glory to ensure that Odysseus will have a hard time getting back home</p>	<p>"Blue-maned Earth-holder", "Earthshaker" Refers to Poseidon.</p> <p>"Like a mountain lion, leaving nothing behind" (9.285) Shows how the Cyclops eats Odysseus' comrades</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p> <p>Setting: Circe's Island</p> <p>Odysseus and his crew set sail for nine days, and then his crewmates opened the bag of the wind and they went back to where they started. They encounter the Laestrygonians, and then they find Circe's island. Circe turns Odysseus' men into pigs. Hermes then guides Odysseus into defeating Circe, and Odysseus does what he says. Circe then makes the pigs back into his men, and then they stay at the island for 1 year. At the end, they prepare to go to the Underworld.</p>	<p>Supernatural Aid: Hermes assists Odysseus to ensure that he doesn't become a pig like his crewmates. Circe also tells them at the end of the book what to do.</p> <p>Crossing the First Threshold: Odysseus takes the herb and goes Circe's house</p> <p>Woman as the Temptress: Odysseus goes into Circe's bed after she agrees she won't harm him. He then spends 1 year with him.</p>	<p>Xenia:</p> <p>"Meanwhile, back in Circe's house, the goddess had my men bathed, rubbed down with oil, and clothed in tunics and fleecy cloaks." (10.471-477) Although Circe didn't show Xenia to them before (she turned them to pigs), after she made up with Odysseus she treated them like her guests.</p> <p>Hubris:</p> <p>"This guy gets everything wherever he goes. First, he's freighting home his loot from Troy, beautiful stuff, while we, who made the same trip are coming back empty-handed. And now Aeolus has lavished these gifts upon him." (10.45-49) His crewmates got jealous and then prideful of their own skill. Then they opened the wind bag and sent them back from where they started from.</p> <p>Kleos:</p> <p>"This guy gets everything wherever he goes. First, he's freighting home his loot from Troy, beautiful stuff, while we, who made the same trip are coming back empty-handed. And now Aeolus has lavished these gifts upon him." (10.45-49) Not only does this quote show hubris, this also displays Odysseus' Kleos. His comrades know that he has a lot of glory, and Aeolus giving him the gifts could also be because of his previous accomplishments.</p>	<p>"A woman, to their horror, as huge as a mountain top." (10.127). Used as emphasis on the size of Antiphates.</p> <p>"The Laestrygonians speared the bodies like fish"(10.140) Used to show the Laestrygonians stance.</p> <p>"Quicksilver Hermes" Hermes can be described as quicksilver because he's a mischievous greek god.</p> <p>"Glorious Odysseus" Describes Odysseus.</p> <p>"Dark-hearted Aeetes" Used to describe Aeetes as an evil person.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p> <p>Setting: The house of Hades.</p> <p>Odysseus and his crew do what Circe tells them to do in the previous book: to go to the house of Hades and consult Theban Tiresias (a blind prophet). While</p>	<p>Atonement with the Father/Abyss: When Odysseus talks to his mother</p> <p>The Ultimate Boon: Odysseus gets the information he needs from Theban Tiresias.</p>	<p>Xenia:</p> <p>"Well, Phaeacians, does this man impress you with his looks, stature, and well-balanced mind? He is my guest, moreover, through each of you shares in that honor. Do not send him off," (11.345-348) Arete here shows to all the other people that Odysseus is a guest, that they cannot send him off.</p> <p>Hubris:</p>	<p>"Earthshaker" refers to Poseidon</p> <p>"Gold-Sandaled Hera" refers to Hera.</p> <p>"Slaughtered me like a bull at the manger" Shows how gruesome the death was.</p>

<p>consulting Tiresias, he also meets his mother. He tells all of the stories to the Phaeacians.</p>		<p>"Only the ghost of Telamonian Ajax stood apart, still furious with me because I had defeated him in the contest at Troy to decide who would get Achilles' armor." (11.569-572) Telamonian shows Hubris because Odysseus had defeated him. He's still somewhat salty for what happened.</p> <p>Kleos:</p> <p>"Among men everywhere, telling tall tales no man could ever test for himself. Your words have been outward grace and wisdom within, and you have told your tale with the skill of a bard" (11.375-378) Here Alcinous praises Odysseus of all the stories/challenges he's been through.</p>	
<p>12</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p> <p>Setting: Circe's island, Helios' island</p> <p>Odysseus returns to Circe's island. Circe tells Odysseus about what to do next, so Odysseus sets sail to the Siren's island. His men have wax, but he wants to listen and is bound to the mast. After passing the Siren's they meet Charybdis, and they lose 6 men. After encountering Charybdis, they find the island of Helios. He makes his crew swear not to kill any cow or sheep. Then Odysseus takes a nap and then his crew eat the beef. Zeus curses him, and all of his men die and he floats to Ogygia.</p>	<p>Supernatural Aid: Circe telling them about the two options they have to go to Helios' island.</p> <p>Road of Trials: Sirens, Charybdis, his men eating the beef, him getting sent to Ogygia.</p>	<p>Xenia:</p> <p>"Come, through, eat and drink wine. The whole day through. You sail at dawn" (12.24-25) Circe shows her hospitality and welcomes them back onto the island and lets them chill there for the whole day.</p> <p>Hubris:</p> <p>"Listen to me, shipmates, despite your distress. All forms of death are hateful, but to die of hunger is the most wretched way to go. What are we waiting for? Let's drive off the prime beef in that herd and offer sacrifice to the gods of broad heaven." (12.349-354)</p> <p>Kleos:</p> <p>None.</p>	<p>"Hyperion the Sun" refers to the god Helios.</p> <p>"Rich-haired Calypso" refers to Calypso (from Ogygia).</p> <p>"Writhing that like my men were drawn up the cliff" Emphasis on the writhing.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p> <p>Setting: Ithaca</p> <p>Odysseus returns back to Ithaca, and meets a shepard (Athena in disguise). Athena then reveals that she's a goddess, and then Odysseus needs to go to the palace as a beggar to meet the suitors.</p>	<p>Crossing the Return Threshold: Odysseus must go back and claim back his title</p>	<p>Xenia: None</p> <p>Hubris: None</p> <p>Kleos: None</p>	<p>"His words flew out as if on wings" Shows Odysseus' excitement.</p> <p>"She wrinkled the skin all over his body so he looked like an old man" Shows the wrinkling/aging affects of the beggar</p>
<p>16, 17, 18</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p>			
<p>19</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p>			
<p>21 and 22</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p>			
<p>23 and 24</p> <p>Setting/Quick Summary:</p>			