

Homer [ca 750 BCE], *Odyssey*,  
Books 9, 10, 11 & 12

*Epic [comic plot]*

Trying & Coming Back to Tell --

The Hero at Symposium

**I. READ** Books 9, 10, 11 & 12 of the Odyssey by Homer (Lattimore trans.).

**MAKE** your analysis, **MARK** margins, **FILL** in blanks as before.

BUT note a **further** new dimension in your reading: as you read through the report of Odysseus' adventures, you will be able to **compare** the second half with the first half: similarities and differences between the two parts of story will begin to come to mind.

The work sheets that follow are designed to help in this further game of reading.

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Line Numbers                      MAIN POINTS to be MARKED: Who? Where? When? What? Why? How?  
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9.1-38: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9.39 - 12.454: What in general is the topic of this whole part of the poem? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now make brief notes of the specific topics, adventure by adventure:

9.39-61: \_\_\_\_\_

9.62-81: (Where is Maleia? Ithaka) \_\_\_\_\_

9.82-104: ("Nine days" to where?) \_\_\_\_\_

9.105-566: General topic of these lines? \_\_\_\_\_

105-141: how does the CULTURE described here DIFFER from the CULTURE depicted on the shield of Achilleus in *Iliad* 18? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How would the NATURE of the uninhabited island as described here suit the CULTURE described in *Iliad* 18? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

142-167: \_\_\_\_\_

168-249: How does the CULTURE NICHE described here relate to the CULTURE described on the shield in *Iliad* 18? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

249-315: Compare the social behavior shown here to that of other hosts in the Homeric world? \_\_\_\_\_

316-412: compare the use of wine here with its normal use in Greek dining (for example, at Troy \_\_\_\_\_ )

413-566: What result does the hero obtain by becoming "Nobody"? \_\_\_\_\_

And what result does he get by declaring his name? \_\_\_\_\_

10.1-79: this time, whose fault is it? [note again, "nine days" and where are they? \_\_\_\_\_ ]

10.80-132: And the fault here? \_\_\_\_\_

10.133-574: Circe \_\_\_\_\_

11.1-626: DETOUR -- the topic in general terms -- \_\_\_\_\_

And now the breakdown:

1-50: \_\_\_\_\_

51-332: \_\_\_\_\_

51-83: \_\_\_\_\_

84-89: \_\_\_\_\_

90-149: \_\_\_\_\_

150-332: \_\_\_\_\_

333-384: Who takes the lead at this moment? \_\_\_\_\_

What about the story thus far makes this especially fitting? \_\_\_\_\_

385-640: How does the topic change? \_\_\_\_\_

Any familiar characters here? \_\_\_\_\_

How do they differ here from what you saw of them before? \_\_\_\_\_

How does Heracles fit the story? \_\_\_\_\_

12.1-141: Circe's topic in general -- \_\_\_\_\_

12.142-200: the attraction & the danger? \_\_\_\_\_

COMPARE 9.82-104: how was that attraction similar? \_\_\_\_\_

12.201-259: could this one have been avoided? \_\_\_\_\_

COMPARE 9.105-566 (how many men lost? \_\_\_\_\_ )

The caves: \_\_\_\_\_

12.260-401: Helios -- the kind of test? \_\_\_\_\_

COMPARE 10.1-79 (Aiolus): what caused the trouble there? \_\_\_\_\_

12.401-446: Destruction

12.447-452: Kalyпсо's island

10.80-132 \_\_\_\_\_

10.133-574: Circe's island

**STUDY QUESTIONS:** in the light of what you you have just read, ..

1) WHAT are some characteristics of a **good story**?

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2) WHAT sort of person makes a good story teller?

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3) HOW is a good audience expected to react? \_\_\_\_\_

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4) What are the main ways in which the CULTURE of the Cyclopes differs from the CULTURE described on the Shield of Achilles?

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5) WHAT are the main NEW things that we learn here about Agamemnon [cf. *Iliad*]?

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6) And what's NEW in the picture of Achilles? \_\_\_\_\_

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