

Name _____

The Odyssey
Anticipation Guide

Directions: Rate the following statements on a scale from 1-6. Keep these ratings in mind as you read *the Odyssey* and consider whether Homer and various characters in this poem feel the same way you do.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6
agree **disagree**
strongly **strongly**

Rating

- _____ 1. There's no place like home.
- _____ 2. Half the fun of going someplace is in getting there.
- _____ 3. Revenge is sweet.
- _____ 4. Winning isn't everything; it's how you play the game that counts.
- _____ 5. Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.
- _____ 6. All's fair in love and war.
- _____ 7. A man's home is his castle.
- _____ 8. The ends justify the means.
- _____ 9. Saving face is important to me.
- _____ 10. What goes around comes around.
- _____ 11. Good people usually get the reward they deserve.
- _____ 12. Life is hard.
- _____ 13. Real men don't show their sensitive side.
- _____ 14. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
- _____ 15. A friend in need is a friend indeed.
- _____ 16. Most people who give gifts, want something in return.
- _____ 17. You should be willing to die for your country.
- _____ 18. If mothers and wives were in charge, there would be no war.
- _____ 19. You should express your anger.
- _____ 20. I'd rather be a live coward than a dead hero.
- _____ 21. Only the good die young.
- _____ 22. You shouldn't indulge freeloaders.
- _____ 23. Sometimes, a little deceit is necessary.
- _____ 24. There's a lot of truth in many superstitions.
- _____ 25. You should take care of yourself and your family first, then worry about the rest of the world.

Your Mythology IQ

From the myths and fairy tales you have read, the stories you've heard and the cartoons you've watched you have probably picked up a lot of information about Greek gods and goddesses. Several gods and goddesses make an appearance in *The Odyssey*. Some of these didn't acquire the reputation you may know about until people after Homer told stories about them. (For instance, Achilles didn't have his problematic heel in *The Odyssey*.)

Match each of the names on the left with the description you think fits best.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Zeus | A. god of war |
| _____ 2. Amphitrite | B. supreme god of the Greeks |
| _____ 3. Apollo | C. goddess of the sea |
| _____ 4. Poseidon | D. god of archery, music, and poetry |
| _____ 5. Ares | E. goddess of wisdom |
| _____ 6. Aphrodite | F. lame god of metal-working |
| _____ 7. Artemis | G. god of sea and earthquakes |
| _____ 8. Hermês | H. goddess of hunting |
| _____ 9. Athena | I. goddess of love and beauty |
| _____ 10. Hephaestus | J. messenger of the gods |
| _____ 11. Helios | K. queen of the kingdom of the dead |
| _____ 12. Persephone | L. sun god |

Scoring

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9-12 | Wow! You're an expert. |
| 6-9 | Excellent, but a little shaky. |
| Less than 6 | You are about to make a number of new acquaintances in high places. |

The Odyssey
Name:

Date:

What Would You Do?

Directions: In order to better understand some of the situations that characters in *The Odyssey* will have to face, take a look at the following situations and decide what you would choose to do if they happened to you. Write 3-4 complete sentences for each situation.

- 1) You have been shipwrecked on an island. You meet a god/goddess who falls in love with you and wants you to stay with them forever. In return they will make you immortal. However, all you really want to do is get home and be with your family. What would you choose? Why?

- 2) Your husband/wife went off to war with a group of people, many of whom returned ten years later. Years go by and your husband/wife still hasn't returned. A group of men/women, who all assume your husband/wife must be dead, start courting you, and have proposed. You can't support yourself and your son on your own, but you haven't given up hope that your husband/wife is still alive and will return. What do you do?

3) You are a young adult who lives with his mother. Your father has been presumed dead. A large group of men have come courting for your mother, who doesn't want to believe her husband is dead. Since she refuses to pick one of them, they stay at your house, eating you out of house and home. They are loud and rude to you. You want to get rid of them, but there is only one of you, and dozens of them. What can you do?
