

GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY

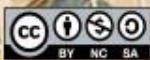
CH12

ODYSSEY

THE ADVENTURES OF ODYSSEUS

授課老師：簡士捷 副教授

Chien, Shih-Chieh Associate Professor
Taipei Medical University

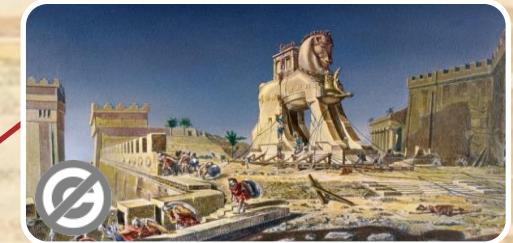


Unless noted, the course materials are licensed under Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Taiwan (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)

Homer

Iliad

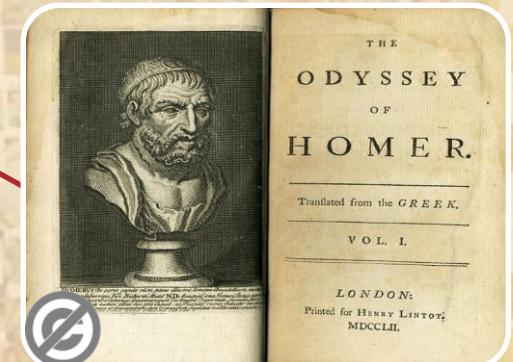
Odysseus



Troy



Helen of Troy



The Odyssey

GET
General Education TW
臺灣通識網

Character List

- **Odysseus** - King of Ithaca
- **Telemachus**- Odysseus's son
- **Penelope** - Wife of Odysseus and mother of Telemachus
- **Athena** - Daughter of Zeus and goddess of wisdom, She often appears in disguise as Mentor, an old friend of Odysseus
- **Poseidon** - God of the sea
- **Polypheus** - One of the Cyclopes (uncivilized one-eyed giants)

- **Circe** - The beautiful witch-goddess who transforms Odysseus's crew into swine when he lands on her island
- **Tiresias** - A Theban prophet who inhabits the underworld
- **Calypso** - A beautiful nymph who falls in love with Odysseus

After Troy fell, everything changed...

- Athena and Poseidon no longer blessed Greeks because they forgot what was due to gods.
- On their voyage home, they were all punished.

- Poseidon made the Greeks unable to sail home directly but wandering around:
Odysseus was made to wander for 10 years.

Map of Antiquity



In Ithaca, the island of Odysseus' home

- Everyone regarded Odysseus' wife, Penelope, as a widow and proposed to her.
- However, these suitors didn't really love Penelope. They just wanted to inherit Odysseus' possessions and properties.
- Both Penelope and Odysseus' son, Telemachus, could not stand them.

Penelope's plan to not receiving any suitor's proposal

- She lied that she couldn't marry until she finished woven a fine wrought shroud for Odysseus' father.
- Penelope unwove each night what she had woven during the day.

Penelope and Her Suitors



After 10 years, gods forgave Odysseus...

- Poseidon was the only exception.
- Gods were moved by Athena's words. Zeus ordered that gods had to help Odysseus to return home.
- Athena arrived Ithaca and helped Telemachus, to go to Menelaus', king of Sparta, to gather Odysseus' news.

Athena (in the form of mentor) and Telemachus



The Great Wondering

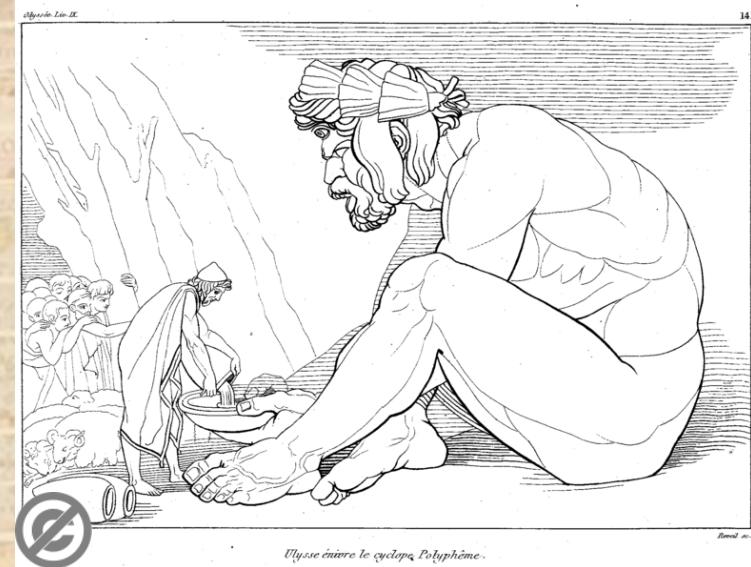
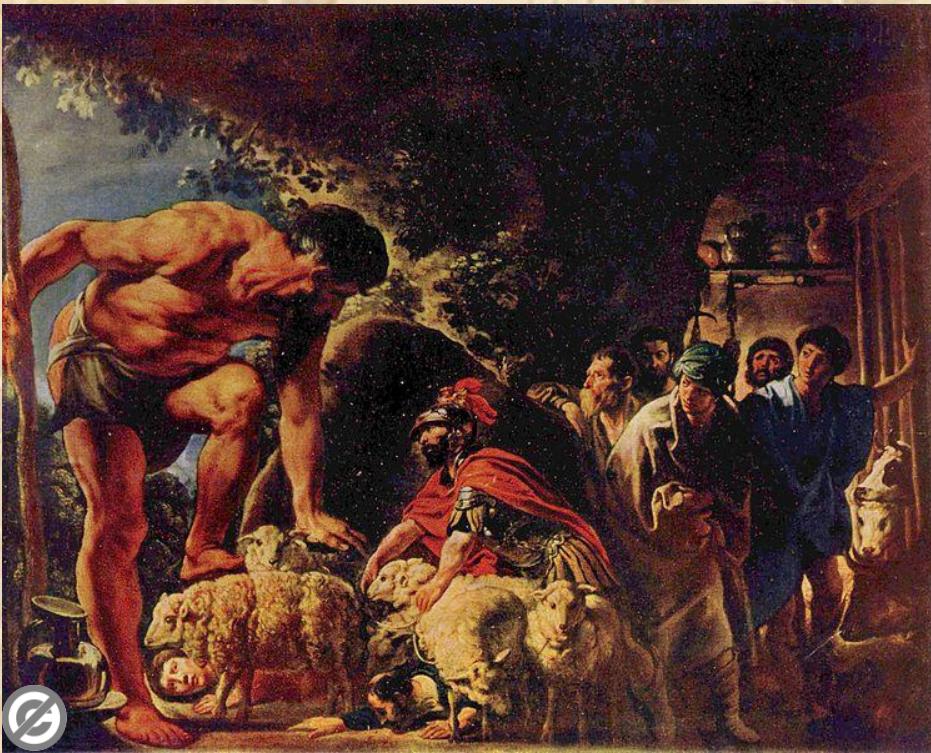
Odysseus' very first adventure after the Trojan War...



Odysseus removing his men
from the company of the lotus-
eaters

- On the tenth day from their departure from Troy, they came to the land of Lotus-eaters.
- Those who ate the flower-food forgot their longing for home.

The second adventure...



- They met Cyclops Polyphemus
- Son of Poseidon

Odysseus and his men poked out the eye of the Cyclops'

Wikigallery.org - Do not use for commercial use. Do not remove this warning.

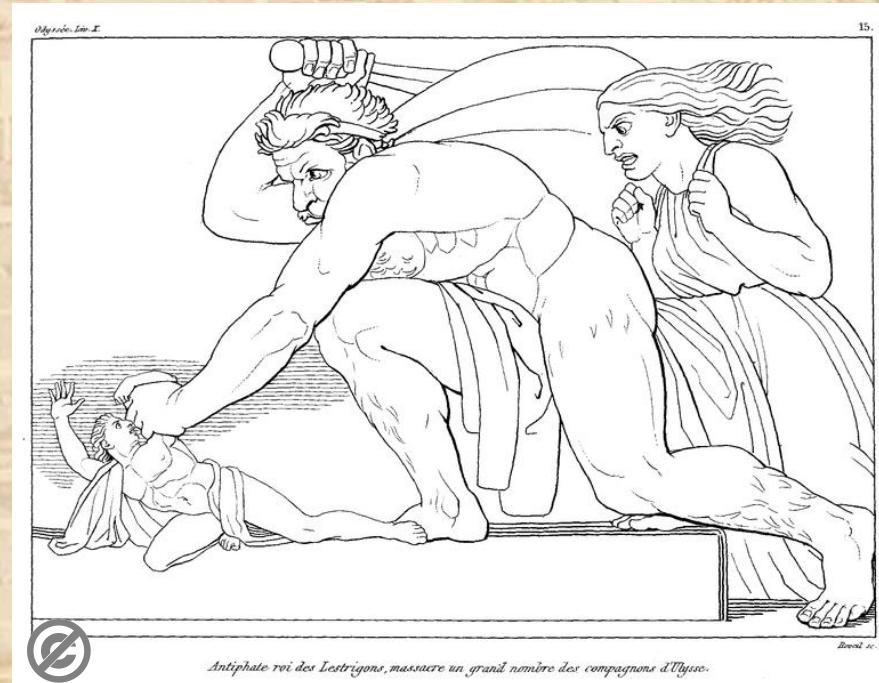


Then...

- They arrived Country of Winds, ruled by King Aeolus. He received Odysseus and his crew hospitably and gifted Odysseus a leather sack of storm winds.

- One of Odysseus' crew thought there would be gold in the sack and opened it.
- The winds rushed out and blew them to the country of Laestrygons, a people of gigantic size and cannibals too.

Laestrygons About to Eat Odysseus' Scout



- They moved to the next island, Aeaea, the territory of Circe, a most beautiful and dangerous witch.
- She turned men into pigs. However, Odysseus with Hermes' help didn't get transformed.
- Circe, thereby, fell in love with Odysseus.

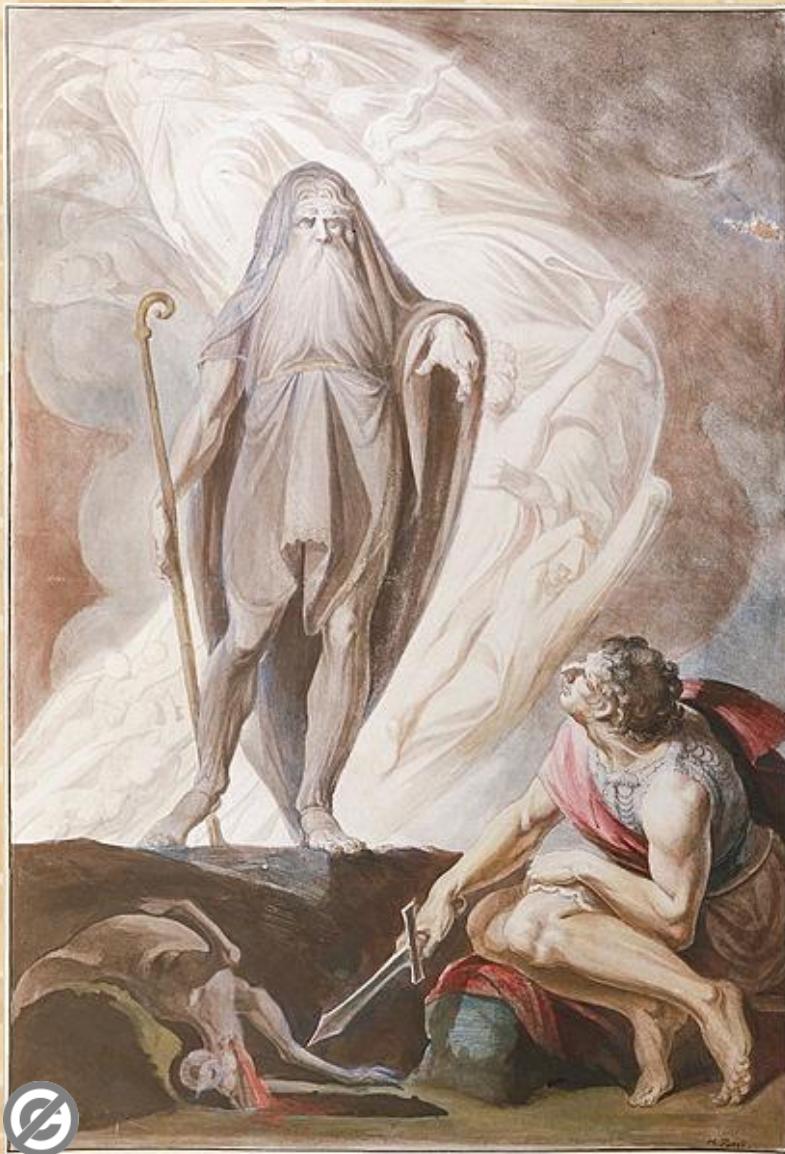


Circe

- Circe listened and followed Odysseus' commands. They lived in Aeaea happily for a year.
- Before they left, Circe offered Odysseus tips to get home.



Odysseus and Circe



Teiresias foretells the Future to Odysseus.

- Following Circe's tip, Odysseus and his crew came to Erebus where Hades ruled with Persephone.
- They filled the trench with sheep's blood in order to find the spirit of Teiresias to tell them how to get home.

- Teiresias said the chief danger was that they might do injury to the oxen of the Sun.
- Odysseus kept following Circe's tip to sail home. He knew that they would pass the island of sirens.
- Sirens were marvelous singers whose voices would make a man's mind go wild.
- In order not to hear sirens' singing, every man was ordered to stop his ears with wax.



- However, Odysseus would like to hear their voices. He asked his crew to tie him on the mast when they passed by sirens.

Odysseus became the only one who ever heard Sirens



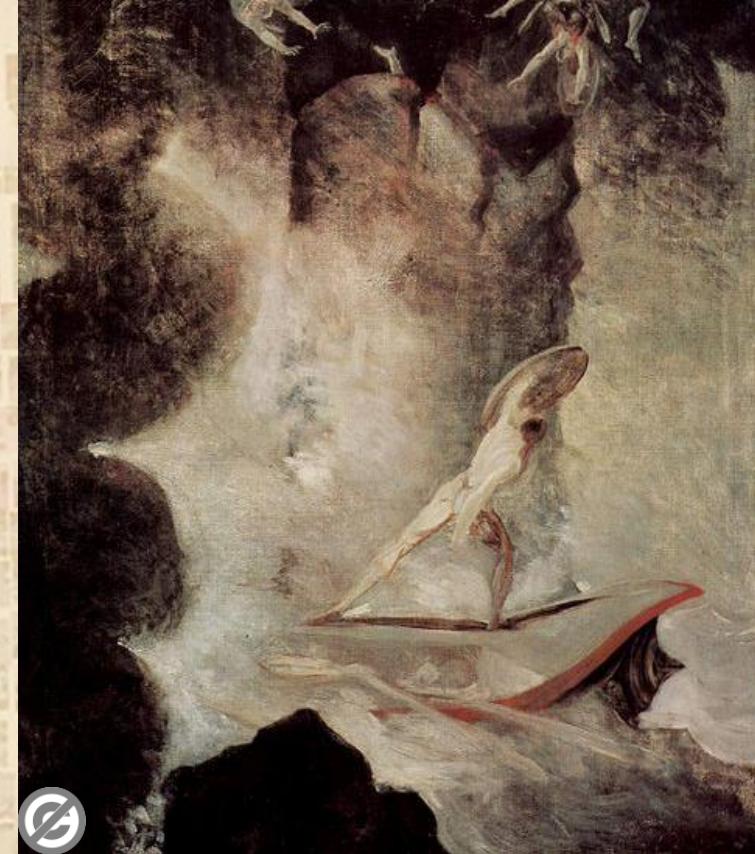
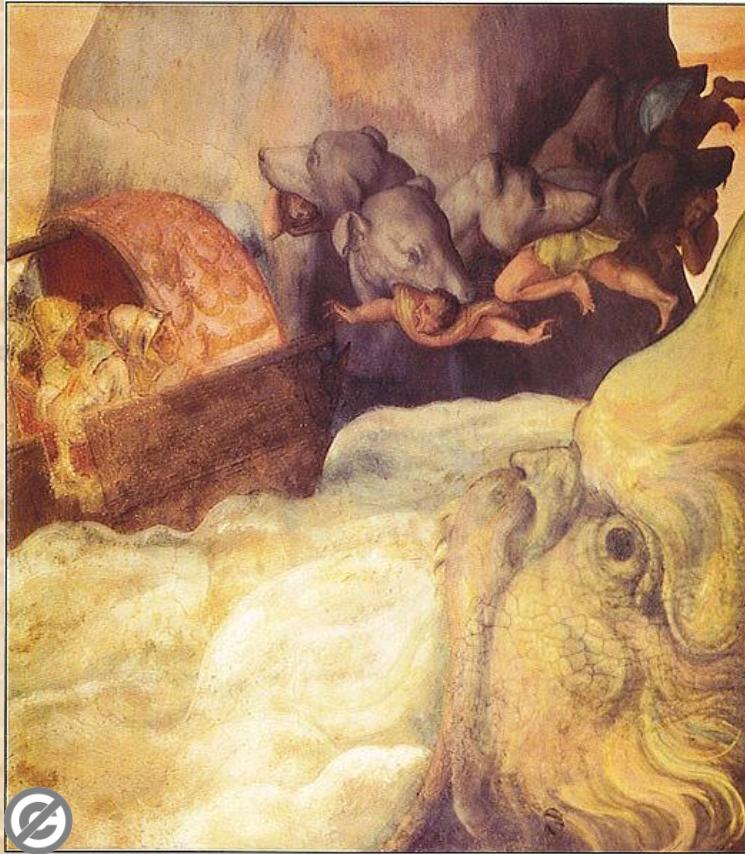
- Arrived the island of the Sun, the crew ate the oxen because they were hungry.



The Oxen of the Sun

Between Scylla and Charybdis

Odysseus was forced to choose which monster to confront while passing through the strait; he opted to pass by Scylla and lose only a few sailors, rather than risk the loss of the entire ship in the whirlpool.



Since Scylla and Charybdis cannot be beaten, Odysseus can only minimize his losses with prudent decision-making and careful navigation.

Odysseus and Calypso

On Mount Olympus, Zeus sent Hermes to rescue Odysseus from Calypso. Hermes persuades Calypso to let Odysseus build a ship and leave.



- Calypso loved Odysseus and shared all her fortune with him. However, Odysseus missed his family in Greece.
- He spent 7 years with Calypso.



Odysseus then landed a country belonged to Phaeacians. They were kind and splendid sailors. Odysseus was saved by the King's daughter, Nausicaa.



Naked Odysseus met Nausicaa

Odysseus was invited to the palace by Nausicaa. There, the king promised to help him home. Odysseus told his story of ten years' wandering in the presence of all the Phaeacian chiefs.



Homecoming of Odysseus

- The Sun immediately took his vengeance. A thunderbolt shattered the ship when they left, everyone drowned, except for Odysseus.
- In the end, he came to Phaeacian.
- The King helped Odysseus to return to Ithaca.



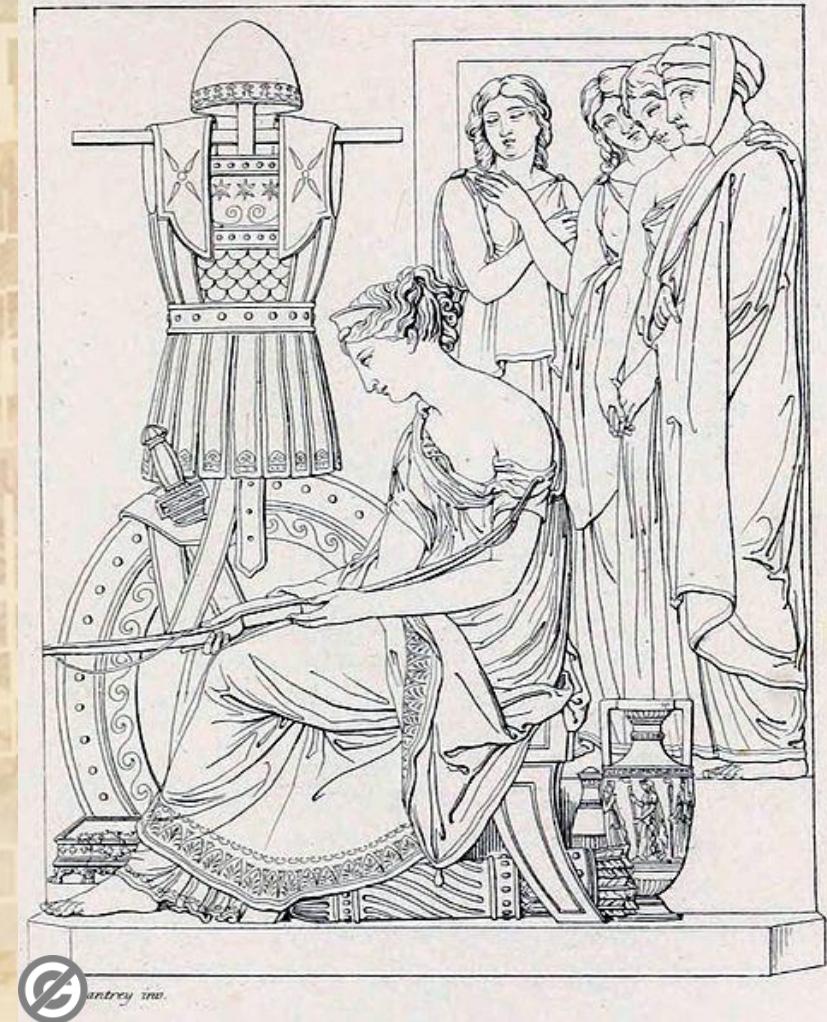
Return to Ithaca

Telemachus first reunited with his father, Odysseus.

- Odysseus disguised as an old beggar among Penelope's suitors.
- Penelope didn't recognize him at first.
- However, Odysseus' nurse (nanny) Eurycleia did when she saw the scar on his foot as she washed his feet.

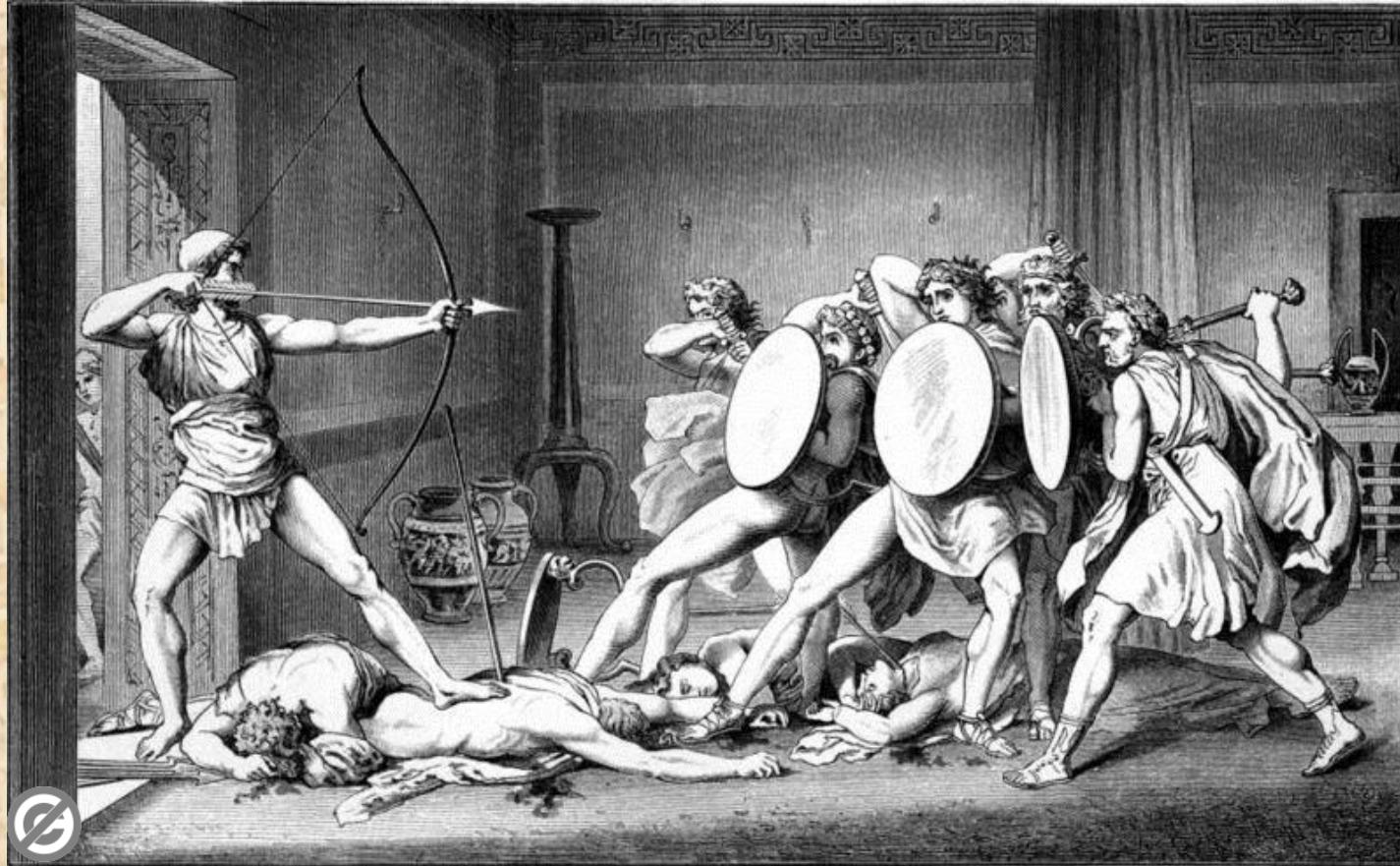


- Penelope said she would marry anyone who can shoot an arrow straight through 12 rings (what Odysseus used to accomplish).
- No one succeeded.



Penelope Weeping over the Bow of Odysseus

- Odysseus was the last one to try. He succeeded.
- He then shot every suitor on the spot.



Portrayal of Odysseus slaying his wife's suitors

- After the slaughter, Eurykleia woke Penelope.
- The whole family finally reunited.



Penelope Awakened by Eurykleia.

Odysseus reunited with Penelope



The Power of Cunning over Strength

Q&A

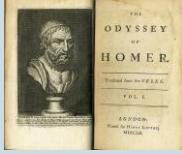
- ① Is Odysseus a good leader?
- ② What's your reflection toward Odysseus' wandering story? Any part in the story attracts the most of your attention?
- ③ Please describe Odysseus' character in terms of the good choices and the poor choices he made.

Reference

- <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/odyssey/characters.html>
- An online game that allows you to play a role and review the plot of The Odyssey at the same time.

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~loxias/odchoice.htm>

Copyright Declaration

Work	License	Author/Source
		Wikimedia commons Henri Motte http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beware_of_Greeks_bearing_gifts.jpg 2013/10/07 visited
		Wikipedia commons Evelyn de Morgan http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Helen_of_Troy.jpg 2013/10/07 visited
		Wikimedia commons Alexander Pope (1688–1744) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OdysseyPopeTP1752.jpg 2013/10/07 visited
		Wikipedia commons Abraham Ortelius (1527–1598) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MapoftheVoyageoftheArgonauts.jpg 2013/10/07 visited
		Wikipedia commons John William Waterhouse (1849–1917) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:JohnWilliamWaterhouse-PenelopeandtheSuitors(1912).jpg /2013/10/07 visited
		Wikimedia commons John Flaxman (1755–1826) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OdysseyTelemachos.png 2013/10/07 visited

Copyright Declaration

Work	License	Author/Source
		<p>Wikipedia commons: Author Unknown http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lotus-eaters.png 2013/10/07 visited</p>
		<p>Wikimedia commons John Flaxman (1755–1826) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OdysseyPolyphemos.png 2013/10/07 visited</p>
		<p>Wikimedia commons Jacob Jordaens (1593–1678) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jakob_Jordaens_009.jpg 2013/10/07 visited</p>
		<p>Wikigallery Jan van der (Joannes Stradanus) Straet http://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting_328257/Jan-van-der-%28Joannes-Stradanus%29-Straet/page-1/2013/10/07 2013/10/07 visited</p>
		<p>Wikipedia commons John Flaxman (1755–1826) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:OdysseyAntiphates.png 2013/10/07 visited</p>
		<p>Wikimedia commons John William Waterhouse (1849–1917) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Circe_Offering_the_Cup_to_Odysseus.jpg 2013/10/07 visited</p>

Copyright Declaration

Work	License	Author/Source
		Wikimedia commons Bartholomeus Spranger (1546–1611) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bartholom%C3%A4us_Spranger_008.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Henry Fuseli (1741–1825) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Henry_Fuseli_-_Teiresias_Foretells_the_Future_to_Odysseus,_1780-1785_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons John William Waterhouse (1849–1917) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_William_Waterhouse_-_Ulysses_and_the_Sirens_(1891).jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Herbert James Draper (1863–1920) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Draper_Herbert_James_Ulysses_and_the_Sirens.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Pellegrino Tibaldi (1527–1596) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pellegrino_Tibaldi_001.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons: Author Unknown http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Caught_between_a_rock_and_a_hard_place.jpg 2013/10/08 visited

Copyright Declaration

Work	License	Author/Source
		Wikipedia commons Henry Fuseli (1741–1825) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Johann_Heinrich_F%C3%BCssli_054.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Jan Brueghel the Elder (1568–1625) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Odysseus_and_Calypso.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Arnold Böcklin (1827–1901) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arnold_B%C3%BCcklin_008.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Michele Desubleo (circa 1601–1676) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Desubleo_ulises_y_nausicaa_montecitorio.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Francesco Hayez (1791–1882) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Francesco_Hayez_028.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Claude Lorrain (1604/1605–1682) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Claude_Lorrain_-_Ulysses_Returns_Chryseis_to_her_Father_-_WGA04992.jpg 2013/10/08 visited

Copyright Declaration

Work	License	Author/Source
		Wikimedia commons Christian Gottlob Heyne http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Odysseus_and_Euryclea_by_Christian_Gottlob_Heyne_-_Project_Gutenberg_eText_13725.jpg /2013/10/08 visited
		Wikipedia commons Francis Chantrey http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Francis_Chantrey_-_Penelope.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Gustav Schwab (1792–1850) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Odysseus_from_Schwab_book_1.jpg 2013/10/08 visited
		Wikimedia commons Angelica Kauffman (1741–1807) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Angelika_Kauffmann_Penelope_von_Eurykleia_geweckt_1772.jpg /2013/10/08 visited
		Wikipedia commons Francesco Primaticcio http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Francesco_Primaticcio_d%27Ulysse_et_de_P%C3%A9nlope.jpg /2013/10/08 visited
		Taipei Medical University Chien, Shih-Chieh