The Odyssey Plot Questions (to help us with comic life) Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Direction : Using the play “The Odyssey”, “The Land of the Lotus Eaters” and “The Homecoming,” please answer the questions below. You may answer in point form.

**Land of the Lotus Eaters**

1. In the story of the Odyssey, where is Odysseus trying to get to (specifically)? Where does he start out at the beginning of the story?

2. What was the name of the tribe who attacked Odysseus at the beginning of the story?

3. When Odysseus sent men to explore the land of the Lotus Eaters, what did the men do?

**Act 1: Odysseus Meet The Cyclops**

4. Who is Polyphemus’ father?

5. How did Odysseus trick Polyphemus and get away from him? What does this show us about Odysseus?

6. What happens at the end of Act 1 that ensures it will be a long time before Odysseus gets home?

**Act 2: A Year with Circe**

7. Why is Elpenor afraid to go ashore to explore the island of Aeaea?

8. What did Odysseus see that made him realize that there was life on the island?

9. Who is Circe and what is she known for? How does Odysseus trick her and who helps him do it?

10. Why did the crew open the bag of wind given to Odysseus by King Aeolus?

11. What did the Laestrygonians do to Odysseus and his ships?

12. What in the story shows you that the trip to Hades will be an arduous (difficult) one?

13. How did Elpenor die and why did giving Elepnor a proper burial seem so important?

**Act 3: A Visit to Hades**

14. What did the men pour into the trench they dug?

15. What does Odysseus promise he will do when he arrives in Ithaca?

16. What does Elpenor tell Odysseus he wants on his grave?

17. What warning did Teiresias give Odysseus about the island of the sun god?

18. What comment does Teiresias make about Odysseus’ journey home?

19. Why did Odysseus’ mother die?

20. Why is Odysseus referred to as “Odysseus of the lively wits”?

**Act 4: Scylla and Charybdis**

21. Why did Odyseus have himself tied to the mast and have the crew put wax in their ears?

22. Who are Scylla and Charybdis?

23. What mistake in judgment did Odysseus make that ultimately cost the lives of all of his crew?

**Act 5: The Gods Help Odysseus**

22. Who is upset by everything Odysseus is going through pleads to Zeus that they should help him? Who does Zeus say is really against Odysseus?

23. Who is Zeus’s messenger?

24. What ultimatum did Hermes deliver to Calypso

25. What does Zues say the Phaecians will do for Odysseus?

26. Who is Calypso? Why is she unhappy at Hermes directive? Why is Odysseus suspicious of her motives?

**Act 6: Nausicaa**

27. Who is Nausicaa?

28. What are the girls doing on the beach when Odysseus hear them? Why does he frighten them?

29. Why does Nausicaa not wish to be seen with Odysseus?

30. Why would there be no one on earth who would set hostile feet on Phaeacian soil?

**The Homecoming**

31. What does Odysseus disguise himself as when he arrives in Ithaca?

32. What has been happening at his house while he has been away for 20 years?

33. How has Penelope tricked the suitors?

34. How does Odysseus prove that it is him?

35. What does Odysseus do after the archery competition?

**The Archetypal Hero:**

The Odyssey is a word that means an “epic journey.” It is the story of Odysseus trying to get home from Troy after fighting the Trojan War for 10 years. Along the way, he faces many trials and tribulations that he must use his wits to escape. This type story is known as an “Epic,” which is a poem that follows the hero’s journey. All epic poem follow the pattern of an archetypal hero. Below are the traits of an Archetypal hero. Please indicate how Odysseus fits each trait in the middle column. In the column beside it, please list how David is also an archetypal hero as he complete he also completes a journey to find love and safety. You will need to think symbolically rather than literally for David.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Archetypal Hero Characteristic** | **Odysseus** | **David** |
| 1. Unusual circumstances of birth; sometimes in danger or born into royalty |  |  |
| 2. Leaves family or land and lives with others. |  |  |
| 3. An event, sometimes traumatic, leads to an adventure or a quest |  |  |
| 4. Hero has a special weapon only he can wield (not always a literal weapon) |  |  |
| 5. Hero always has supernatural help. |  |  |
| 6. Hero must prove himself many times while on an adventure. (Has to overcome many challenges) |  |  |
| 7. The Journey and the Unhealable wound (Trying to achieve something, find something or make up for a past wrong) |  |  |
| 8. Hero experiences atonement with the father  (makes up with his father for a past wrong) |  |  |
| 9. When the hero dies, he is rewarded spiritually |  |  |