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Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Odyssey, part 1

**Active Reading Questions**

Prentice Hall, pages 1071-1082

**Directions:** Answer the following questions as you read excerpts from The Odyssey in your Prentice Hall textbook. Any page numbers refer to your textbook.

The Sirens

1. The sorceress Circe both helps and hinders Odysseus on his journey home. What can you tell about Circe from the illustration on page 1070?

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2. What does Odysseus reveal about his character by sharing information with his men?

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3. What instructions does Odysseus give his shipmates as they prepare to deal with the Sirens?

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4. What does Odysseus’ mention of Helios reveal about ancient beliefs regarding astronomical events?

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5. Which details in the Sirens’ song are designed to flatter the epic hero?

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6. How does Odysseus keep his shipmates from hearing the Sirens sing?

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Scylla and charybdis

1. Which parts of Odysseus’ speech demonstrate his strength as a leader?

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2. How does the image on page 1075 compare with the description of Scylla in the scene?

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3. What demand does Odysseus make of his men as they approach rough waters?  
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4. What quality of heroic leadership does Odysseus show in lines 823-825?

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The cattle of the sun god

1. Which details in the first paragraph suggest that ancient Greeks believed the gods controlled the weather?

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2. How does the passage (lines 841-843) show that ancient Greeks believed their gods were able to convey human-like emotions?

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3. How are the values of Eurylochus different from those of Odysseus?  
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4. Who owns the heifers and sheep on the island?

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5. What details in lines 920-921 clarify the flashback presented here?

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6. What doe Odysseus’ shipmates do while he is sleeping?

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7. In The Odyssey, Odysseus’ son Telemachus searches for his father in a ship like the one on page 1080. From what you observe in the painting, how does this compare with modern ships?

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8. Which of Odysseus’ heroic qualities does he demonstrate in the passage (lines 956-962)?

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9. How is Odysseus’ shop destroyed?

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10. In what way do lines 994-997 remind you that Odysseus is telling his story to an audience?

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**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. If you were one of Odysseus’ crew, how would you feel about having him as your leader? Explain your response.

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2. (a.) In the episode of the Lotus-Eaters, how does Odysseus handle the men who ate the lotus?

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(b.) What does Odysseus understand that his men do not?

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3. (a.) In the episode of the Cattle of the Sun God, why does the crew kill the cattle?

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(b.) How does Odysseus react to this action?

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(c.) What does Odysseus’ reaction show about the importance of the gods to him?

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4. (a.) *The Odyssey* has entertained people for thousands of years. Why do you think it has remained such an enduring work of literature?

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