## Odyssey Worksheet—Books 1-12

As in *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey* provides both positive and negative role models for people of different genders, nationalities, and social class, but whereas *The Iliad* focuses primarily upon wartime, *The Odyssey* focuses more upon peacetime and domestic issues, such as travel, commerce, hospitality, navigation etc. Identify below what you learn about the Greek world at the time *The Odyssey* was probably composed (late Bronze Age) and written down (~600 B.C.E.)

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1.	How do fulfill? S	issues relating to social class enter into the narrative? What roles do people of royalty slaves?
2.	Write a	bout how issues relating to gender enter into the narrative:
	a.	What roles do men fulfill at home? What responsibilities do husbands have? Sons?
	b.	What roles do women fulfill? What responsibilities do wives have? Daughters?
	C.	What do we learn about marriage customs at this time?
	d.	We encounter several female goddesses in <i>The Odyssey</i> . Who are they? What do these scenes suggest about attitudes toward gender at this time?

	<ul> <li>e. Compare the female characters in <i>The Odyssey</i> to those in <i>The Iliad</i>. What similarities do you note? What are the differences? Think especially about Andromache, Helen, Penelope, and Nausicaa.</li> </ul>	
3.	One important concept that is dealt with thoroughly in <i>The Odyssey</i> is the issue of hospitality. Hosts and guests were supposed to follow a well defined set of customs. What are they? Who follows them? Who doesn't?	
4.	Think about the scene with Polyphemus, the Cyclops, narrated by Odysseus.	
	a. What is the basis of Polyphemus' identification as a monster? Is it just his appearance, or is there more to it than that? Can you think of any other epics that lay out a similar relationship?	
	b. How does Odysseus contribute to the problems his men and ship have during this episode?	
5.	Compare the film <i>The Odyssey</i> with the epic you have read. How does the film differ with the text? Be as thorough as possible.	