**The Odyssey** Book 9

A) DO NOW: Odysseus may be the “hero” of the Odyssey, but is he a truly good person? Using the scale below, highlight the number that matches how you feel about Odysseus’s moral standing. Next, explain you rating in the box below.

1……..2……..3……….4……….5……….6……….7……….8……….9…………..10

100% Evil Neutral 100% Good

Explain your rating

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| I feel that although Odysseus is portrayed as a “hero” and does have some heroic tendencies, he also has glaring flaws which makes him more round and complex as a character. |

B) Vocabulary

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| (noun) language that creates a picture in your mind  -can also evoke tastes, sounds, feelings, or smells | “A ripe and verdant vine, hung thick with grapes, was stretched to coil around her cave.”  Imagery |
| The example on the top left comes from a description of Calypso’s cave in Book 5 of *The Odyssey*. | The imagery above creates a picture in our minds by describing all of the details. |

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| (noun) when something has more than one meaning  (Adjective) ambiguous | Harvey Dent, face, Harvey, two, dent, HD wallpaper | Peakpx  Ambiguity |
| Harvey Dent is an ambiguous character in *The Dark Knight* because he believes that there is no such thing as good or evil, only chance. | The ambiguity of Harvey Dent’s character is reflected in his face because it gives him no real side with half of him being shown as a “monster” and the other half as “normal” with no distinct line. |

C) Imagery and Ambiguity in Book 9

1. Read lines 40-54. What does this excerpt tell us about Odysseus as a leader?

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| This excerpt tells Odysseus as a cautious and fair leader as he cares about all of his crew members and tries to save them. |

2. Read lines 82-105. How does the *xenia*, or hospitality of the Lotus-Eaters, cause trouble for Odysseus’s men? What does the effect of the lotus fruit remind you of in contemporary society?

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| The Lotus-Eaters offer their hospitality by providing the men with lotus fruit, which makes them forget their desire to return home. The lotus fruit reminds me of the technology and distractions in our society. |

3. 192-194. How does Homer use imagery to depict the “massive man” living on the island?

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| Homer uses imagery to describe the “massive man” which is the cyclops to emphasize his strength and size to make it seem more scary. |

4. 222-230. How is dramatic irony used in these lines (what do we know that Odysseus and his men do not)? How does it create an effect for us as readers?

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| The dramatic irony is shown when we know that the Cyclops is going to get tricked by Odysseus, but he doesn’t know that. This helps the plot by making us wonder how it will turn out. |

5. Lines 272-306.

a. Why does the Cyclops not show Odysseus and his men *xenia*?

b. Give an example of the imagery used to depict what the Cyclops does to Odysseus’s men. Explain how the imagery is meant to affect us as readers.

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| The Cyclops doesn’t show Odysseus xenia because he doesn’t fear the gods. An example of the imagery that is meant to horrify the readers is “When the Cyclops had filled his massive belly with his meal of human meat and unmixed milk, he lay stretched out among his flocks”. (Wilson 260). |

6. Pages 251-254.

a. Summarize how Odysseus creates a plan to trick, fight against, and escape the Cyclops with his men.

b. What does Odysseus’s execution of his plan tell us about him as a character?

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| Odysseus’s plan is to trick the Cyclops by giving him wine and then stabbing him. It tells us about his bravery and determination, but it also tells us that he can also be very cunning. |

7. Lines 446-460. How does the Cyclops’s conversation with his ram show us that he is a round (rather than flat) character?

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| His conversation with the ram shows us that he is hurt, and it reveals a layer of vulnerability for the character. It shows this when he says, “Sweet ram, why are you last today to leave the cave? You are not normally so slow” (Wilson 254). |

8. Pages 255-257.

a. What does Odysseus do in this section that creates ambiguity about his status as a hero? As a leader? What negative character traits does he display?

b. How does Homer create ambiguity in the Cyclops’s response to Odysseus’s taunting? In other words, what unexpected character traits appear that make him more than a one-dimensional monster?

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| Odysseus taunts the Cyclops which creates ambiguity because he could have just left quietly. This portrays his ego which he allows to control him sometimes which can be a negative trait for a hero or for a leader.  Homer adds depth to the Cyclops’s character by showing his response to Odysseus’s taunting. Instead of just being a monster, Polyphemus expresses pain and asks Poseidon for justice. This plea makes him appear more like a wronged individual rather than just an evil antagonist. |

D) Wrap up: Look back at how you rated Odysseus in the Do Now. After the events of Chapter 9, has your view of Odysseus as a hero changed or stayed the same? Why? Give examples.

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| They stayed the same because even though Odysseus has shown courageousness and bravery at times he still has an ego which makes him more ambiguous for example when he taunted the Cyclops putting the crew in more danger. |