Books 9-12 are the most famous parts of *The Odyssey*. The number 1 most famous is the cyclops Polyphemus.

Also remember, Odysseus is retelling the events right after the conclusion of the Trojan War. He is doing this retelling in the comfort of Alcinous’ hall. Notice the epithet “the great storyteller…”, so for the earliest stories—Cicones, we are going back 10 years in time.

There are a lot of people and places here. We’ll go over all of it before we take the quiz—your job is to try and answer the questions as best you can.

*CHRONOLOGY OF THE STORY.* I am reposting this from earlier. Here is where you will fill this in.

As you read the text, refer to this page to chronologically list the places Odysseus visits on his journey home from Troy to Ithaca. He visits some places twice…

1. Troy

2.

3.

4. Island of the Cyclops

5.

6.

7. Aeaea, the home of Circe

8.

9.

10.

11.

12. Thrinacia—Isle of the Cattle of the Sun God Helios

13.

14.

15. Scheria

16. Ithaca

*BOOK NINE: In the One-Eyed Giant’s Cave*

Who are the following characters? What role does each play in this book?

Cicones Ismarus

Lotus-eaters Maron

Laertes Telemus

Polyphemus Nobody

What aspects of Odysseus’ character are revealed in lines 17-22?

Odysseus tells of his journey home starting in line 44. What occurs at Ismarus?

What epithet is used for morning on the third day of Odysseus’ journey? What epithets can you find for each of the characters in this book?

What happens to Odysseus’ men at their next stop?

What characteristics are attributed to the race of Cyclops? (see lines 118-128)

How many men does Polyphemus eat in total?

How does Odysseus escape from the cave?

How does Odysseus’ greed, as illustrated in lines 252-259, come back to haunt him?

In what ways do Odysseus’ lies benefit him? Explain with examples.

How do Odysseus’ arrogance and pride help seal his fate with Poseidon? Explain.

*BOOK TEN: The Bewitching Queen of Aeaea*

Identify the following characters from Book Ten:

Aeolus Laestrygonians

Circe Antiphates

Eurylochus Polites

How does the curiosity of Odysseus’ men damage them on their journey?

Explain how the Achaean squadron—except for Odysseus’ own ship—is lost.

How does Circe greet Odysseus’ men? Explain.

How is Odysseus aided by the gods in defense of Circe?

What does Odysseus trade for the safety of his men?

What does Odysseus demand before taking part in Circe’s feast? How does this demand reveal something of Odysseus’ character? Explain.

How is Eurylochus a voice of reason throughout Book Ten?

What task does Circe give Odysseus as the book ends?

*BOOK ELEVEN: The Kingdom of the Dead*

Identify each of the following characters. What role does each play in Book Eleven?

Cimmerians Perimedes

Tiresias Erebus

Persephone Elpenor

Alcinous Aegisthus

Cassandra Clytemnestra

Orestes Anticleia

What does Elpenor request of Odysseus?

What are the main points of Tiresias’ prophecy? Explain thoroughly.

What news of Ithaca does Odysseus’ mother share in the underworld?

What circumstances surrounded Agamemnon’s death? Explain.

What is Achilles’s reaction to death? (see lines 554-558)

In the underworld, why is Ajax upset with Odysseus? Explain.

*BOOK TWELVE: The Cattle of the Sun*

Identify the following characters. What role does each play in the book?

Aeaea Sirens

Amphitrite Scylla

Charybdis Thrinacia

Helios

Why does Odysseus’ crew return to Aeaea? How does this benefit them?

What advice does Circe give Odysseus for conquering the Sirens? What advice does she give for defeating Scylla and Charbydis?

What lesson is taught through Odysseus’ experience with the Sirens?

What lesson do Odysseus’ men learn from their actions on Thrinacia?

After Zeus strikes Odysseus’ ship, what fate awaits Odysseus and his men? Explain.