Vocabulary:  **KINE / BEEVES**—both are plural for cattle/beef

- Explain the following:  "These were our rites in memory of him" (19)?  Describe this first thing that Odysseus and his men do upon returning to Circe's island of Aiaia.

- **Infer:** Why are the men "twice mortal!" (27), according to Circe?  And then, what will she "sketch" (11) for Odysseus and his men?

- According to Circe, why must Odysseus "steer wide" (57) of the Seirenes (the Sirens)?  What does she suggest for the men and Odysseus?

1. Circe describes two options for the next stage of the journey:  go by the Prowling Rocks or to go by a narrow strait that has two great challenges:  "the den of Skylla" (103) or on "the opposite point" (119) the whirlpool Kharybdis.  Describe the Prowling Rocks, Skylla, and Kharibdis.  What is Circe's advice, in "Better to mourn / six men than lose them all" (129-30)?

   - [Note Circe's advice that Odysseus "not yield to the immortal gods" (138), a reminder of man's powerlessness against the gods.]

   - "But if you raid the beeves (cattle), I see destruction / for ship and crew" (167-68).  What is the final challenge, the coast of the island where Helios the sun god's cattle graze?  Describe the "rough years" Circe predicts for Odysseus afterward.

2.  "I carved / a massive cake of beeswax into bits / and rolled them in my hands until they softened" (208-10).  Why is Odysseus doing this?

   - [Note:  Read over the Sirens' song; look for clues that suggest the Sirens are singing specifically to Odysseus.]

   - The Epic Hero.  "Did I not keep my nerve, and use my wits / to find a way our for us?" (273-74).  "I / told them nothing, as they could do nothing" (289-90).  How do these two statements of Odysseus's confirm his Epic Hero status to the reader?

3.  Poetic language.

   a.  Personification:  Give two to three examples of the personification of Kharybdis as Odysseus's ship begins to pass by.

   b.  Homeric Simile:  Describe the Homeric simile used to describe Skylla's attack on the men of Odysseus's ship.
• “Eurylokhos cried out in bitterness” (357). Why is Eurylochus angry, and what is the point he makes that all the other men agree with?

• “Outmatched” (381), what does Odysseus ask the men to swear to do? Then, what was the result of “a month of onshore gales (strong winds)” (415)?

• Comprehension: What is Eurylokhos’s reasoning behind his “insidious plea” (436)?

• Involvement of the gods. Why “cruel drowsing” (477)? What does Odysseus suspect of the gods?

4. Comprehension: How does Helios threaten Zeus if there is no punishment to Odysseus’s men? Then, on the following page, describe the punishment from Zeus.

• [Note the color of the sea as “winedark” (497), a description of Homer’s common in both the Iliad and Odyssey.]

• Explain the simile “like petrels on the waves” (531). [petrel: seabird]

5. Comprehension: Describe “the worst of it” (545) that follows—“one more / twist of the knife” (546-47)

• And who meets him on the isle of Ogygia?

VISUALIZATION—Choose ONE of the following scenes to draw:

a. Odysseus listening to the song of the Sirens

b. In line 556, Odysseus says, “But I clung grimly” (558). Where is Odysseus as he “waited!” (560)?