Homer’s *Odyssey* (Robert Fitzgerald translation) Unit Test Study Guide

**FORMAT**

- **20 multiple choice questions**—a-e (e: “none of the above”) (1 pt. each)—20 pts.
- **5 passage identification questions** (short paragraph) (4 pts. Each)—20 pts.
  - Who is the speaker/actor?
  - What’s happening in the scene?
  - Why is this important to the overall story?

**HOW TO PREPARE?**

- **Pre-reading**—Class notes
  - Definition of an epic, an epic hero (strengths and weaknesses), epic conventions (be able to identify Homeric similes, epithets)

- **Reading**—The best way to prepare overall is to **review the reading questions** to recall key moments and characters from the story. My goal is for you to know the stories well enough that you would be able recall and retell them satisfactorily later on. That means that you don’t have to know all the tiny details but that you should know the ones that are central to the narrative. (There may be one or two detail-y multiple choice questions—in order to challenge the most attentive readers.)

1. Book IX (9)—“New Coasts and Poseidon’s Son”
   - The Phaeacians; the Lotos Eaters; Polyphemus the Cyclops (Cyclops)

2. Book X (10)—“The Grace of the Witch”
   - Aiolos and the wind; the Laestrogonians; the island Kirke (Circe)

3. Book XII (12)—“Sea Perils and Defeat”
   - The Sirens; Scylla and Charybdis; the Island of the Cows

4. Book XVI (16)—“Father and Son”
   - Eumaios, Telemachus, Odysseus

5. Book XVII (17)—“The Beggar and the Manor”
   - The suitors’ treatment of Odysseus the beggar at the hall

6. Book XXI (21)—“The Test of the Bow”
   - The preparations for revenge—Penelope’s test for the suitors; Odysseus

7. Book XXII (22)—“Death in the Great Hall”
   - Revenge/Justice—the events in the hall; the roles of Odysseus and Telemachus; Melanthios and the maids

8. Book XXIII (23)—“The Trunk of the Olive Tree”
   - Penelope’s uncertainty; the olive tree; the couple’s reunion

9. Book XXIV (24)—“Warriors, Farewell”
   - The suitors in the underworld (Agamemnon–Clytemnestra / Odysseus–Penelope); Odysseus’s reunion with his father, Laertes; Athena and Zeus’s involvement in the end