

The Odyssey - Books 17-20 Quiz

Student Quiz

10 Questions | High School

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question. Each question is worth 1 point. Total: 10 points.

1. Who recognizes Odysseus when he reaches his palace in disguise in Book 17?

- A. Penelope, when she sees him at the doorway
- B. Argus, Odysseus's old dog, who recognizes him and then dies
- C. Antinous, who remembers him from before the Trojan War
- D. Melanthius, who immediately alerts the suitors

2. How does Antinous treat the disguised Odysseus when Odysseus begs from the suitors?

- A. He welcomes him and offers him a place at the feast.
- B. He questions him politely and sends him to Penelope.
- C. He insults him and throws a footstool at him.
- D. He recognizes him and secretly leaves the palace.

3. What happens when the suitors encourage Odysseus and Irus to fight in Book 18?

- A. Irus defeats Odysseus and drives him from the palace.
- B. Odysseus knocks Irus out while continuing to conceal his true identity.
- C. Telemachus stops the fight before either man is hurt.
- D. The two beggars refuse to fight and divide the prize.

4. What does Penelope persuade the suitors to do when she appears before them in Book 18?

- A. Leave Ithaca until she has chosen a husband
- B. Bring her presents as suitors traditionally should
- C. Give Telemachus control of their estates
- D. Ask the gods to decide which man she should marry

5. What do Odysseus and Telemachus do with the weapons in the hall at the beginning of Book 19?

- A. They hide them away as part of their plan against the suitors.
- B. They distribute them among the loyal servants.
- C. They carry them outside and bury them near the palace.
- D. They leave them in place so the suitors will not become suspicious.

6. How does Eurycleia recognize the disguised Odysseus while washing his feet?

- A. She recognizes his voice when he speaks her name.
- B. She sees a scar on his leg from an old boar-hunting wound.
- C. She notices that he is wearing Laertes's ring.
- D. She recognizes a birthmark on his shoulder.

7. What contest does Penelope announce near the end of Book 19?

- A. The suitors must race from the palace to the harbor and back.
- B. The suitors must answer a riddle about Odysseus's travels.
- C. The suitors must string Odysseus's bow and shoot an arrow through twelve axes.
- D. The suitors must defeat Telemachus in a wrestling match.

8. What causes the suitors to abandon their plan to kill Telemachus in Book 20?

- A. Penelope orders them to leave the palace.
- B. An eagle carrying a dove appears as an unfavorable omen.
- C. Odysseus reveals himself and threatens them.
- D. Menelaus arrives in Ithaca with armed men.

9. What does Ctesippus throw at the disguised Odysseus during the feast?

- A. A wine cup
- B. A wooden stool
- C. An ox hoof
- D. A bronze spear

10. What does Theoclymenus foresee when he interprets the terrifying signs in the palace near the end of Book 20?

- A. The suitors will soon escape from Ithaca safely.
- B. Penelope will leave Ithaca before choosing a husband.
- C. Disaster is coming for the suitors because of their reckless behavior.
- D. Telemachus will return to Sparta and remain there.