

The Odyssey - Books 9-12 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. Why do Odysseus and his men suffer heavy losses after attacking the Cicones at Ismarus?

- A. They ignore Odysseus's order to leave and remain on shore until Cicone reinforcements arrive.
- B. They lose their ships in a storm before they can leave the harbor.
- C. They are betrayed by the Lotus-eaters, who lead the Cicones to them.
- D. They divide into two groups and accidentally fight one another.

2. What name does Odysseus give Polyphemus in order to deceive the Cyclops?

- A. Laertes
- B. Nobody
- C. Mentos
- D. Eurylochus

3. How do Odysseus and his surviving companions escape from Polyphemus's cave?

- A. They climb through an opening in the roof during the night.
- B. They hide inside large storage jars until the Cyclops leaves.
- C. They cling beneath the Cyclops's sheep as the flock leaves the cave.
- D. They break down the stone doorway while Polyphemus is asleep.

4. What causes Odysseus's ships to be blown away from Ithaca after Aeolus has nearly helped them home?

- A. Poseidon overturns the ships with an earthquake.
- B. Odysseus orders the crew to sail back toward Troy.
- C. The crew opens the bag of winds while Odysseus is asleep.
- D. Aeolus recalls the favorable wind before they reach land.

5. What does Circe do to the members of Odysseus's crew who enter her house?

- A. She turns them into pigs while leaving their minds unchanged.
- B. She puts them into a sleep from which they cannot awaken.
- C. She sends them back to Aeolus in a magical storm.
- D. She forces them to serve the Laestrygonians.

6. Why does Odysseus travel to the land of the dead in Book 11?

- A. To retrieve a lost weapon from Achilles
- B. To ask the prophet Teiresias about his journey home
- C. To persuade Agamemnon to return to the living
- D. To search for a route that avoids Phaeacia

7. What important warning does Teiresias give Odysseus about the island of Thrinacia?

- A. He must not enter the cave of the nymphs.
- B. He must not allow his men to eat the lotus plants.
- C. He and his crew must leave the cattle of Helios unharmed.
- D. He must sacrifice one of his ships before leaving the island.

8. How is Odysseus able to hear the Sirens' song without being drawn to his death?

- A. Athena makes him deaf until the ship has passed the Sirens.
- B. His men plug their ears with wax and tie him securely to the mast.
- C. Circe gives the entire crew a potion that blocks the Sirens' spell.
- D. He orders the crew to sail only at night while the Sirens are asleep.

9. What happens when Odysseus's ship passes Scylla in Book 12?

- A. Scylla carries off six of Odysseus's companions.
- B. Scylla destroys the entire ship and crew.
- C. Odysseus defeats Scylla with his sword and spear.
- D. The crew captures Scylla and releases her near Thrinacia.

10. What finally causes the destruction of Odysseus's ship and the death of his remaining crew?

- A. The Laestrygonians pursue them and sink the ship.
- B. Polyphemus follows them to sea and smashes the ship with a rock.
- C. After the crew kills the cattle of Helios, Zeus strikes the ship with lightning.
- D. The Sirens summon a storm that drives the ship onto the rocks.