

The Odyssey — Pre-Reading / Background 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. The Odyssey is traditionally attributed to which ancient Greek poet?

- A. Sophocles
- B. Homer
- C. Virgil
- D. Hesiod

2. The Odyssey is best described as which type of work?

- A. A historical chronicle
- B. A tragedy written for the stage
- C. An epic poem
- D. A philosophical dialogue

3. The events of the Odyssey take place primarily after which major conflict?

- A. The Persian Wars
- B. The Peloponnesian War
- C. The Trojan War
- D. The Punic Wars

4. Odysseus is trying to return to which homeland?

- A. Athens
- B. Sparta
- C. Thebes
- D. Ithaca

5. Who is Penelope?

- A. Odysseus's wife
- B. Odysseus's sister
- C. A Trojan princess
- D. A goddess who protects sailors

6. Who is Telemachus?

- A. Odysseus's father
- B. Odysseus's son
- C. The king of Troy
- D. Penelope's brother

7. Which goddess is especially associated with helping Odysseus and Telemachus?

- A. Athena
- B. Aphrodite
- C. Hera
- D. Artemis

8. In ancient Greek culture, the concept of xenia refers primarily to:

- A. Military loyalty between soldiers
- B. The customs and obligations of hospitality between hosts and guests
- C. Competition between rival kings
- D. Worship of the gods through athletic contests

9. What does it mean when an epic begins in medias res?

- A. It begins with the hero's birth
- B. It begins with a formal history of Greece
- C. It begins in the middle of the larger sequence of events
- D. It begins after all the major action has ended

10. What problem exists in Odysseus's household while he remains away from Ithaca?

- A. His palace has been abandoned completely.
- B. Trojan soldiers have occupied Ithaca.
- C. Suitors are occupying his household and competing to marry Penelope.
- D. Telemachus has already taken his father's place as king.