

Name:

Date:

from the Odyssey, Part 1

Homer

SHORT-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following items after you have read the text.

RL.9-10.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

- 1. Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.**

Homer begins the *Odyssey* by asking the muse of poetry to help him tell the story of Odysseus. How does beginning the story in this way affect your understanding of the text?

RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

- 2. (a) Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details.**

Reread the sections "Sailing from Troy" and "The Cyclops" in the *Odyssey*, Part 1. What central idea about Odysseus is introduced in "Sailing from Troy" and developed in "The Cyclops"? How is it introduced in "Sailing from Troy," and what details help develop it in "The Cyclops"?

- (b) Provide an objective summary of the text.**

Write an objective summary of the *Odyssey*, Part 1, that includes key events and details, but not personal opinions or judgments.



RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

3. Reread lines 244–318 of the *Odyssey*, Part 1. Explain why Odysseus decides to interact with Polyphemus rather than kill him. Explain how they interact and how this interaction helps Odysseus and his men later.

RL.9-10.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

4. **Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to order events within a text create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.**

Reread lines 484–493 of the *Odyssey*, Part 1. What is the effect of Polyphemus cursing Odysseus as he and his men are leaving? How does it affect your understanding of what happens to Odysseus and his men later in the *Odyssey*, Part 1?

RL.9-10.6 Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

5. After reading the *Odyssey*, Part 1, what can you infer were important values to the ancient Greeks in Homer's time? Use evidence from the text as well as your background knowledge about ancient Greece.



EXTENDED-RESPONSE ACTIVITY ▶ Oral Tradition

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following activity as either a written response or a group discussion.

RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

6. The *Odyssey* is a traditional epic about the adventures of Odysseus, a warrior who fought in the Trojan War. Describe Odysseus's motivation in the *Odyssey*, Part 1 and analyze his character. How do Odysseus's actions and character demonstrate that he is an epic hero?

Use these guidelines in your writing or discussion.

- What is Odysseus's goal in the text? How is he trying to achieve this goal? What happens to him as he attempts to achieve this goal?
- What interactions does he have with other characters? What do they reveal about his character?
- An epic hero is a larger-than-life character with valuable traits. How do the episodes and what they reveal about Odysseus reflect the characteristics of an epic hero?

TIP FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE

Use precise words to convey your meaning. To find replacements for vague words, use a thesaurus.

TIP FOR DISCUSSION

Remember that everyone in the group is responsible for the success of the discussion. Do your part and be sure that others have a chance to do theirs.