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| Book 1   * Odysseus has been gone for 20 years. * Athena begs Zeus to help Odysseus get home. | Books 2 - 4  * Suitors are taking over Odysseus’ home in Ithaca and planning to kill his son. * His son, Telemachus, visits Pylos to learn more about his father. * The suitors plot to kill Telemachus while he is gone. |
| Book 5   * Years 3 – 10 (7 total years) he has been held captive by a goddess named Calypso (Ogygia Island). * Zeus sends Hermes to help Odysseus get home. * Calypso doesn’t want to let him go, but Odysseus flatters her so she agrees. * She helps build him a raft to get home. | Books 6-8   * 20 days later he lands on Scheria and he is welcomed by King Alcinous. * King Alcinous throws a banquet where Odysseus tells him the story of his journey home. |
| Book 9…   * At the banquet in Scheria Odysseus introduces himself and talks about what happened to him after he left Troy (#1) * Ismarus (#2) – Cicones (allies of the Trojans) * Odysseus and his men rob the Cicones, but they lose 72 of Odysseus’ men. * Land of Lotus Eaters (#3) – he sends 3 of his men to see if they are friendly; they eat the lotus flower, so they lose hope or interest in returning home. * He has to tie his men under the rowing benches to get them to come with him. | Book 9 Continued   * Land of the Cylopes (#4) - Odysseus does not like to Cyclopes because they have no order, don’t take care of their land, and are abusive to their wives and children. * Odysseus and his 12 best go on the island while the rest of the men guard the boat. * Cyclops’ cave – Odysseus and his men get trapped, Cyclops eats 6 of his men, Od. makes a giant spear, gets Cy drunk and stabs him in the eye. * Od tells Cy his name is Nobohdy so the cyclops wouldn’t know who attacked him. * Od sneaks his men out of the cave by tying themselves underneath the sheep so they can get out when Cy lets them out in the morning. * Aboard ship – Od taunts Cy and the Cy throws the hilltop at Od ship, which brings him back to shore. * Od men ask him to stop, but he keeps going, so the Cy prays to his dad, Poseidon, and curses Od’s journey. * Zeus denies their sacrifice. |
| Book 10  * Aeolus – Island of Wind King (#5) * Gives him two gifts: fair west wind to get home quickly and safely and bag of bad winds /men open bad bag of winds – sent back Aeolus * (#6) Land of Laestrygones (cannibals)- Only Odysseus ship survives the attack + 45 men * (#7) Aeaea – Circe’s home (witch) * She has lions and wolves as pets (under spell) - ½ of the men go check it out. One man Eurylochus stays back. * Circe changes them into pigs. * Eurylochus runs back to tell Odysseus | Book 10 Cont.   * Eurylochus begs Odysseus to leave the land of Circe/Odysseus does not listen * Hermes gives him moly, plant that makes him resist Circe * Men are changed back but still in a trance * Stays with Circe for one year - begs to go home. * Circe says she will let them go, but they must first travel to the Land of the Dead and visit the blind prophet, Tiresias. |
| Book 11   * (#8) Land of the Dead – Odysseus makes sacrifices to appease the dead. * He runs into his shipmate, Elpenor, who died after getting drunk and falling off the roof, breaking his neck. * Elpenor asks Odysseus to give him a proper funeral. * Odysseus sees his mom, who died of a broken heart. She tells him that his family is mourning him and miss him. * Tiresias, the blind prophet, warns Odysseus not to kill Helios’ cattle. He also tells him to make a sacrifice for Poseidon when he returns home. He also warns him what is awaiting him at home – suitors are trying to steal his wife. | Book 12   * #9 Circe’s palace- she warns him about upcoming obstacles: Sirens, Scylla, and Charybdis * Plug ears with beeswax to avoid Sirens’ temptation, hug the cliff and lose 6 men to the 6 headed monster instead of losing everybody to the whirpool. * Pass Sirens #10- O listens while tied to mast, men have beeswax in ears * Pass Charybdis #11- men are scared so they hug cliff (cave) * Pass Scylla #12 – six men eaten * Pass Thrinacia #13 (Helios’ island)- men eat the cattle- payback Zeus throws thunderbolt - destroys ship and kills all men but Odysseus. * #14 Ogygia – Calypso’s Island (seven years) * #15 King Alcinous – Scheria (tells story at banquet) |
| Part 2  Book 13-15   * King helps Odysseus get home. * Odysseus doesn’t recognize his home. * Athena helps him by making him look like an old man so no one will recognize him. * Athena also tells Telemachus to return home, but tells him to stay with the swineherd. * (#16) Returns to Ithaca | Book 16   * Odysseus is still disguised as an old beggar. * Odysseus reveals himself to his son. * 100 suitors at his home. * Odysseus tells Telemachus to go home and lock up all the weapons. |
| Book 17   * Argos (Odysseus’ dog) is neglected while Odysseus is away. Eumaeus (swineherd) tells the beggar (O) that the dog was a great hunting dog in his day. * Argos recognizes Odysseus’ voice and then he dies. * Odysseus goes home in disguise and the suitors mock him. Penelope wants to talk to him, but he says no because it may ruin his plan. | Books 18-20  * 2 suitors who are rude (Antinous and Eurymachus). * The beggar (O) tells Penelope he heard Odysseus is alive and is on his way home. * Penelope proposes a very difficult contest to win her hand in marriage – the suitor must string Odysseus’ bow and shoot it through 12 sockets |
| Book 21   * Penelope gets Odysseus’ bow and cries because she misses him. * She describes the archery contest to the suitors and they start trying to string the bow. * While the suitors try to string the bow, Odysseus reveals his identity to the swineherd (Eumaeus) and the cowherd. * He proves his identity by showing them his scar, and they vow to fight for him and help him reclaim the throne. * The beggar (O) asks to try to string the bow and orders the cowherd to lock the gates so no one can escape. * Odysseus accomplishes the task and the suitors are shocked. He tells the suitors to get ready to have a celebratory feast. * Odysseus and son are preparing to destroy the suitors. | Book 22  * Odysseus shoots Antinous first with an arrow. Then he reveals his identity to the suitors. * Eurymachus tries to blame everything on Antinous so the rest of the suitors aren’t killed. He promises gifts if their lives are spared. * Odysseus shoots Eurymachus. * Telemachus gets weapons for Odysseus while Odysseus holds the suitors off with arrows. * Athena intervenes on Odysseus’ behalf by blocking the suitors’ arrows. She reveals herself (with her shield) and they back down. * All suitors are killed. |
| Book 23  * Odysseus prepares for his meeting with Penelope. Athena makes him very handsome for his reunion. * When he confronts Penelope, she acts very cautiously because she has learned to be tough after so many years alone. * Penelope tells her servant to move the bed for him, knowing that if it’s actually Odysseus, he would know it couldn’t be moved. * Tearful, joyful reunion. * At the end, townspeople are angry over the death of the suitors. Athena steps in and makes peace. |  |