

## Socratic seminar on *The Odyssey*:

Please prepare for the class discussion considering the following questions. I will check your notes before the seminar. No notes means no participation. I do not care about the format of your notes (text and doodles, bullet lists, writing in the margins, are all fine!) but you need to have things written down for discussion. I may even collect these notes for extra credit on your test next class!

- How does *The Odyssey* retain its title as an “epic poem” (discuss the ways in which it meets the requirements of this genre, giving specifics)
- Odysseus is on a journey, one in which he must accomplish physical tasks and literally make his way home to his family, but one in which he also gains knowledge along the way and grows as a leader and person. Discuss his learning process and connect it to his physical journey.
- Some people believe that *The Odyssey* is so old as to be useless to modern day students. Discuss what we can still learn from this poem and why it is still valid in the classrooms today. Make connections also with Greek mythology and how they are valid in today’s world.
- What role does hospitality play in *The Odyssey*?
- What important elements were gleaned from your reading of Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology*?
- Can you summarize and discuss the importance of the story of the Trojan War and the Mother Earth and Her Children?
- Discuss how the story of *The Odyssey* is told compared to the chronological events that took place during the story.
- Can you explain and identify the epic similes and epithets in *The Odyssey*?