

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***The Odyssey by Homer***

***Homeric Conventions and the Epic Genre: a Journey***

**What makes “The Odyssey” epic?**

1. The hero –
  
2. The setting –
  
3. Intervention of the gods –
  
4. The plot –

**Homeric Conventions:**

1. *The Invocation:*

Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns  
driven time and again off course, once he had  
plundered the hallowed heights of Troy.  
Many cities of men he saw and learned their minds,  
many pains he suffered, heartsick on the open sea,  
fighting to save his life and bring his comrades home.  
But he could not save them from disaster, hard as he strove—  
the recklessness of their own ways destroyed them all,  
the blind fools, they devoured the cattle of the Sun  
and the Sungod blotted out the day of their return.  
Launch out on his story, Muse, daughter of Zeus,  
start from where you will—sing for our time too.

- a. The plot –
  
- b. The theme –
  
- c. How is the invocation unique to the epic genre?

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2. *In medias res*

a. What happens before *The Odyssey* begins? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Where does Part 1 of *The Odyssey* begin? (3 things)

3. *Flashbacks*

a. What is the purpose of a flashback?

b. Where does the flashback in Books 5-12 begin?

c. Write down all of the places Odysseus visits and the tests he encounters *after* leaving Troy, but *before* ending up on Calypso's island:

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_
- v. \_\_\_\_\_
- vi. \_\_\_\_\_
- vii. \_\_\_\_\_
- viii. \_\_\_\_\_
- ix. \_\_\_\_\_
- x. \_\_\_\_\_

4. *The Journey Ends*

d. Summarize the ending of *The Odyssey*.

e. How is Odysseus' journey symbolic of life?