



**YEAR 9 UNIT 1**  
**GREEK MYTHS AND LEGENDS**  
**HOMER – THE ODYSSEY**  
**MASTERY BOOKLET**

**NAME:**

We want your knowledge to be secure, so you will use this booklet at home to reinforce the learning we do in class.

Greek Myth characters	
Odysseus	Brave, strong, clever protagonist. 'Wily Odysseus'
Calliope	A muse, daughter of Zeus
<a href="#">Penelope</a>	Odysseus' wife. Tries to fend off over 100 suitors who have invaded the royal palace, seeking her hand in marriage and a chance of ruling Ithaca.
<a href="#">Telemachus</a>	Son of Odysseus and Penelope
<a href="#">Athena (Pallas)</a>	Frequently intervenes on Odysseus' or Telemachus' behalf, often in disguise and sometimes as Mentor, the prince's adviser
Calypso	A nymph who lived on the island of Ogygia, where, she detained Odysseus for seven years.
The Lotus Eaters	A race of people living on an island dominated by the lotus tree, The lotus fruits and flowers were a narcotic. After they ate the lotus, they would forget their home and loved ones, and only long to stay with their fellow lotus-eaters.
The Sirens	Dangerous creatures, who <b>lured</b> nearby sailors with their enchanting music and singing voices to shipwreck on the rocky coast of their island. It is also said that they can even charm the winds.
Circe	Circe was a goddess of Greek mythology. Her father was the sun god Helios and her mother was, depending on the source, either a naiad or the goddess of magic Hecate.
Polyphemus (the Cyclops)	Also known as "the Cyclops," the one-eyed cannibal giant who traps Odysseus and a scouting party in his cave and is blinded when they escape.
Scylla	A legendary monster who lives on one side of a narrow channel of water, opposite her counterpart Charybdis.
The Homeric question	Did Homer really exist?
Context	
Circa 700 BC	Approximate date of first publication (but this is disputed)
Pylos	A prominent town in Ancient Greece.
Sparta	An important city in Ancient Greece.
Trojan War	An expedition to reclaim Helen, wife of Menelaus, King of Sparta and brother of Agamemnon. Lasted 10 years
Epic poetry	Often performed from memory or to music
Ithaca	Odysseus has been gone from Ithaca for about 20 years — the first 10 spent fighting the Trojan War, the last 10 trying to get home
Themes and ideas	
Xenia/	Hospitality- An important concept in Ancient Greek Culture
Loyalty	Penelope remains loyal to Odysseus throughout the 20 years
Reputation	In the world of Odysseus, one's most treasured possession is his good reputation
Appearance versus reality	Disguises are used many times throughout
Cunning and courage	'Wily' Odysseus uses schemes and tricks to avoid capture. He is also brave and fearless.
In medias res	In the middle of the action
Renown	Being known or talked about by many people
Maritime	Connected with the sea
Deus ex machina	An unexpected power or event saving a seemingly hopeless situation,

	Cover, write, check		Definition
fervent			
dearth			
epoch			
speculation			
embellish			
conflation			
renowned			
exclusively			
quest			
hostility			
versatile			
elaborate			
quintessential			
assassinate			
incurring			
hubris			
nymph			
assented			
rigorously			
toil			
intoxicating			
plausibly			
schemed			

prodigious			
subjection			
ennobling			
Illustrious			
rebuked			
lamentably			
intrinsic			
alluded			
epithet			

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**Knowledge check**

What is an epic poem?

What does omniscient mean?

Why is Homer such an **enigma**?

What is the Greek term for hospitality?

What was the catalyst for the Trojan war?

Why was it important to show Xenia, even to the poorest stranger?

Who was the Trojan's greatest warrior?

How did the Greeks eventually beat the Trojans? What role did Odysseus play?

By what epithet is Odysseus known?

What does The Odyssey tell the story of?

What are the three key themes in 'The Odyssey'?

What is Telemachus' role at the beginning of the story?

How did Penelope delay replying to the suitors' proposals?

Define 'incur the wrath of the Gods'

Why does Odysseus get blown off course?

Who captures Odysseus for 7 years?

Why don't Odysseus's men want to leave the land of the Lotus Eaters?

How is Odysseus shown to be hubristic in book 9?

What does Circe do to Odysseus' men?

How does Hermes intervene in the Circe story?

Who is Eurylochus and what does he persuade Odysseus' crew to do?

How does Zeus punish them?

How does the Odyssey end?

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