# The Odyssey/Mythology Study Guide

The following information *could be* on the test.

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| The 12 Great Olympians | Who are they, and what, if anything, did they do in the Odyssey? |
| Zeus |  |
| Hera |  |
| Poseidon |  |
| Hades |  |
| Hestia |  |
| Athena |  |
| Apollo |  |
| Artemis |  |
| Aphrodite |  |
| Hermes |  |
| Ares |  |
| Hephaestus |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Characters in the Odyssey | What were they involved in? |
| Aeolus |  |
| Alcinous |  |
| Antinous |  |
| Argos |  |
| Athena |  |
| Calypso |  |
| Charybdis |  |
| Cicones |  |
| Circe |  |
| Eumaeus |  |
| Eurycleia |  |
| Eurymachus |  |
| Helios |  |
| Homer |  |
| Odysseus |  |
| Paris |  |
| Penelope |  |
| Polyphemus |  |
| Poseidon |  |
| Scylla |  |
| Teiresias |  |
| Telemachus |  |

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| Other things to possibly know: |  |
| Who wrote The Odyssey? |  |
| When was The Odyssey written? |  |

**The Odyssey Review Questions – Part II**

**Father and Son**

1. Why must Odysseus go first to the forest and to the swineherd's hut rather than to his own palace?

**Athena has orchestrated plans so that Odysseus and his son, Telemachus, will reunite and then work together to plan a way to get rid of the suitors.**

1. Why does Odysseus conceal his identity?

**He wants to make sure some of his old servants are loyal to him. He also wants an element of surprise in order to defeat the suitors taking over his home.**

1. How does the swineherd react upon seeing Telemachus?

**He embraces him with open arms, kissing, hugging him, and crying as if he were his own son.**

1. How are the dangers Telemachus faces now similar to those Odysseus faces, too?

**Now that he publically takes Odysseus’s side, the suitors now come after him and want to kill him as well.**

1. Which of the two is better prepared for the coming danger? How?

**Odysseus is more prepared. He comes up with a plan and gets Telemachus to hide the weapons and armor so they can’t defend themselves.**

**Beggar at the Manor**

1. What is a symbol? (Literary term)

**An object, situation, person, or event that represents something else.**

1. Who is Argos?

**Odysseus’s loyal dog that waits for him at the palace gates and then dies when he returns.**

1. What does Argos symbolize?

**Argos symbolizes the idea of loyalty that Odysseus hopes to find in his return home. While he does die in the end, it does give Odysseus hope that there are still people loyal to him in Ithaca.**

1. Why is this particular character trait so important to Odysseus right now?

**He has been gone for song, in order to beat the suitors and take back over his home, he needs help from those that are loyal to him.**

1. Who can Odysseus trust at this point?

**His son, Telemachus, the swineherd and the cowherd.**

**Test of the Bow**

Odysseus visits Penelope, but does not reveal his identity to her. Instead, he tells her that he knows Odysseus, that he understands Odysseus suffered greatly in his travels to return home after the war, and that he believes Odysseus will return home to Ithaca very soon. *(The information in italics on p. 1150 is VERY misleading. Penelope loves and misses her husband, and has kept up an elaborate hoax on the suitors in an effort to keep from having to marry any of them. Unfortunately, the suitors discovered her deception, and are now forcing Penelope to decide whom she will marry. That is the only reason she comes up with the “Test of the Bow.”)*

1. Why does Odysseus decide to keep his identity secret from Penelope?

**He wanted to make sure she was also loyal to him and still had some hope for his return.**

Odysseus’s wife, Penelope, is tired of all these men living at her house and trying to marry her (they all think Odysseus must be dead). She designs an impossible contest to distract them until Odysseus finally shows up.

1. What are the two parts of the contest? What will the winner get?

**The suitor must first string the great bow and then shot and arrow through 12 axe heads.**

1. Odysseus asks his two old servants to help him. Who are they?

**The swineherd and the cowherd**

1. Why does Odysseus reveal his identity to these two servants?

**He knows that because there are 100 suitors, he will need help to defeat them.**

1. What is Odysseus’ plan for killing all of the suitors?

**He plans to block the door and fight them off with his son and two servants as help.**

1. How do the gods intervene to help Odysseus win the contest?

**Zeus thunders down and shows his support to Odysseus.**

**Death in the Great Hall & The Trunk of the Olive Tree**

1. What happens to Antinous? How does Eurymachus respond to this? What does he do to try and save himself?

**Odysseus shots Antinuos with an arrow in his throat. Eurymachus responds and tries to rally the other suitors but Odysseus shoots him with an arrow as well.**

1. Who shows up to help Odysseus & his allies win the fight against the suitors? What signal does she give so everyone knows?

**Athena blocks an ambush and attack on the Odysseus and his party. She also reveals her shield of support, which causes the suitors to give up.**

1. How does Penelope test Odysseus to see if it was really him? How does he react?

**She tells him that she will have his bed moved outside her chamber. He gets angry because he built the bed from the branch of on olive tree so that it could never be moved. She realizes it was him because only he would know that.**