



# The Odyssey



*Retold from Homer original  
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## What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



**H**ave you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. How do the gods guide the human characters in *The Odyssey*? How do they punish them? Which of the gods is your favorite? Which is your least favorite?

2. While Odysseus is away, his house is filled with men who want to marry Penelope. How do these suitors behave? Do you think that they care about Penelope? If you were Penelope, would you want to marry one of them?

3. The goddess Calypso traps Odysseus on her island so he will stay with her forever. Even

though it is a paradise, Odysseus wants to go home. How would you feel if you were on this island? Would you want to go home, too?

4. What happens when the Cyclops finally finds out it was Odysseus who blinded him? How does the Cyclops find this out? How does that event affect Odysseus for the rest of his journey?

5. When Odysseus hears the Sirens' song, what is it like? Why does he listen to it? Have you ever done something you knew was bad for you? Did your friends help you out of trouble, as Odysseus's men did by tying their leader to the mast?

6. Is Odysseus a good storyteller? Would you want to go with him on an adventure? Out of all his adventures, which is your favorite?

7. When Odysseus returns to Ithaca, he disguises himself as a beggar and keeps his true identity a secret from everyone, even Penelope. Can you think of a time when you had to

keep a secret? Was it difficult to do? If you were Odysseus, would you have been able to pretend that you didn't know your friends and family?

8. Odysseus's friends and family recognize him by the scar on his leg, even when he is in disguise. Do you have any traits such as a scar that would help your friends and family to recognize you?

9. What do you think of Penelope when she finally decides to marry one of the suitors? Do you think it was a good idea to give them the challenge of the axes? If you could pick a challenge for the suitors, what would it be?

10. When Odysseus finally reveals himself to Penelope, she doubts that it is really he. How does he prove himself to Penelope? If you were Penelope, would you have believed Odysseus right away, or would you also need proof?