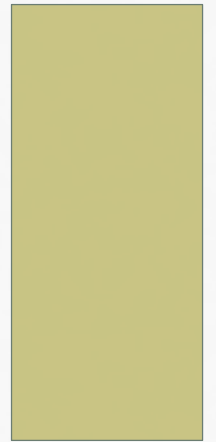


# CLASSICAL STUDIES II REVIEW

THE ODYSSEY



# ODYSSEY

- Review Books 5, 9, 12, 22, 23 on Shmoop
- ALSO review your notebooks – you have examples of heroism and the gods' natures.

## STEP 2:

- Website: Use the links!
- Play the videos in the background!
- <http://classicalkrajewski.weebly.com/the-iliad.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS4jk5kavy4>

# ODYSSEUS IS STRONG

- Never asks his men to do anything that he won't do, and he actually asks *more* of himself.
- This quality makes him a good leader.

# ODYSSEUS IS ANGRY

- Odysseus's massive strength is useful if you're on his good side, but you really do not want to tick this guy off.
- We see his temper early on, when he can't help taunting Polyphemus.
- When he gets home, Odysseus takes his time plotting revenge.
- Odysseus may be crafty, but he's also a fighter—and an angry fighter.

# ODYSSEUS IS CRAFTY

- Even when he's seriously ticked off, Odysseus doesn't lose his cool. Trapped in Polyphemus' cave, he's quick enough to use the name "Nobody.", setting Polyphemus up to look like a total idiot when he screams for help after being blinded.
- He plans again later, setting up the suitors to be destroyed and really taking his sweet time about it.
- Odysseus's craftiness is so central to his character that it's almost part of his name: "crafty/wily Odysseus".

# ODYSSEUS IS SENSITIVE

- Odysseus cries as he listens to the Phaeacians bard sing about the Trojan War, but he's not just letting a single tear fall: he's weeping like a widowed woman.

# ODYSSEUS IS PIOUS

- One last thing: Odysseus may be strong, and smart, and kind—but he's also pious. He sacrifices a ram to Zeus (Book 9); he explains his misfortunes by saying "so it has pleased Zeus to arrange it" (Book 9).
- He's also full of advice for the rest of us. Feeling good about yourself? "Leave all speech to the gods, since they are far stronger than you are" (Book 22). Want to gloat over your enemies? "Keep your joy in your heart, old dame; stop, do not raise up the cry. It is not piety to glory so over slain men" (Book 22 – to Eurycleia).



# ODYSSEUS HAS A FLAW: PRIDE

- What gets Odysseus into trouble is when his justifiable pride shades into hubris, or arrogance. At worst, this can cloud Odysseus's better judgment—as when his not-so-tactful taunting of the Cyclops sets off the whole feud between him and Poseidon. Because Odysseus just *had* to get the glory of besting the monster, he ended up wandering the sea for seventeen years and losing all of his companions to an untimely death.
- Figuring out where to draw the line between justifiable pride and hubris might be tricky, but we do get the sense that Odysseus learns. By the end of the story, he's learned enough to keep his disguise as a poor beggar, even when he really, really, really wants to smash Antinoös' face in.

# XENIA

- Xenia: Did Odysseus have the right to mass slaughter? YES.....
  - 1. Survival of a household depends on ability to feed itself: suitors threaten economic stability of family.
  - 2. Suitors were warned about behaviors, but ignore warning. (Elsewhere in epic, Zeus says humans bring disaster on themselves by ignoring divine warnings.)
  - 3. Suitors also threaten to kill Odysseus if/when he arrives.
  - 4. No state intervention in matters of crime and punishment – family responsibly for righting the wrongs. No Greek would have argued Odysseus' right.

# DON'T FORGET HIS ROLE IN THE *ILIAD*!

- Sent to return Chryseis to appease Apollo
- Slaughtered Trojan camp with Diomedes at night
- Head of embassy to Achilles to bring him back to fight
- TROJAN HORSE
- Crafted Sinon's lie?