

Read Books IX-XII of Homer's *Odyssey* and answer the following questions<sup>1</sup>:

Book Nine

1. Books 9-12 contain most of the highlights (and lowlights!) of Odysseus' attempts to sail home from Troy. Where is Odysseus when he is telling these stories?
2. Why is this significant?
3. To what extent does Odysseus reveal his failures and those of his men?
4. In lines 266-277, what is the attitude of Polyphemos toward the ancient code of hospitality?

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<sup>1</sup> Some of the material from the questions comes from Wes Callihan, *A Study Guide To The Great Books: Homer's Odyssey* (Lancaster PA: Veritas Press, 2009) 80-95. Material also comes from Peter J. Leithart, *Heroes of the City of Man* (Moscow ID: Canon Press, 1999) 178-179.



5. Why must Odysseus go to the land of the dead?

Book Eleven

1. How does Odysseus get the spirits of the dead to talk to him?

2. What information does Teiresias give Odysseus?

3. In lines 405-456, what does Agamemnon say to Odysseus about Klytaimnestra, Penelope, and women in general?

Book Twelve

1. In lines 184-191, what do the sirens tempt Odysseus with? What is their purpose in tempting him?

2. In the episode of Scylla and Charybdis (222-225), why doesn't Odysseus tell his men about Scylla?

3. Why do Odysseus' men eat the cattle of the sun god?

4. What warnings did the men disobey in the above episode?

5. What happened to Odysseus' men as a result of them eating the cattle of the sun god?