

character LIST

Alcinous: King of the Phaeacians

Antinous: “Ringleader” of Penelope’s suitors

Anticleia: Odysseus’s mother who died while he was away from Ithaca

Arete: King Alcinous’ wife, known for her kindness and beauty

Argos: Odysseus’s old hunting dog

Athena: Goddess of wisdom; Odysseus’s helper

Calypso: Witch/nymph who wanted Odysseus as her husband

Circe: “Terrible goddess with lovely hair, who spoke in the language of men” (115); daughter of Helios

Eumaeus: Swineherd; a faithful servant of Odysseus

Eurycleia: Faithful old servant of Odysseus and his family; “she loved him [Telemachus] more than any other of the household, and she had been his nurse when he was a little tot.” (21)

Eurymachus: One of Penelope’s cruellest suitors

Hyperion: Sun-god

Iros: Beggar at Odysseus’s home

Laertes: Odysseus’s father; lives in seclusion in the country

Odysseus: Protagonist unable to reach home after the Trojan War; “wise beyond all mortal men” (12)

Nausicaa: Daughter of King Alcinous; “tall and divinely beautiful” (73)

Mentes: Name assumed by Athena in Ithaca

Mentor: Ithacan friend of Odysseus, often impersonated by Athena.

Penelope: Odysseus’s faithful wife

Poseidon: God of the sea; bore a lasting grudge against Odysseus; often called “Earthshaker”

Polyphemus: “Most powerful of all the Cyclopians” (12); son of Poseidon

Telemachus: Odysseus’s son; “a fine-looking boy” (13); approximately twenty years old

Theoclymenus: Prophet who returns to Ithaca with Telemachos

Tiresias: Blind Theban prophet