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 cruelest 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