

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

The Odyssey

Pre-Test | Assessing Prior Knowledge

Directions: Do your best. This is to give me an idea of where you are at individually before we begin our unit on The Odyssey by Homer. This is also a preview of the information that you will need to know in the future.

1. What is an epic poem?
 - a. Poem known for its use of figurative language
 - b. a long, narrative poem that describes the actions and adventures of a heroic or mythological character
 - c. verse that emphasizes nonlinguistic elements in its meaning, such as a typeface that creates a visual image of the topic at hand
 - d. a melancholy poem that laments its subject's death, yet ends in consolation
2. Which is NOT a purpose of epic poetry?
 - a. To persuade
 - b. To entertain
 - c. To provoke profound thought and emotion
 - d. To present a story about beliefs and values
3. What is one quality of an epic hero?
 - a. The hero utilizes a magical weapon
 - b. The hero embodies the ideals of a nation or race
 - c. The hero usually dies
 - d. The hero leaves destruction wherever (s)he ventures to
4. Who is Homer?
 - a. He is the author of The Odyssey
 - b. He is one of the heroes of the Trojan War
 - c. He is the founding father of Greece
 - d. He is the epic hero in The Odyssey
5. What was unique about Homer?
 - a. He was deaf
 - b. He was blind
 - c. He was crippled from birth
 - d. He was mute
6. How many books does an epic poem have?
 - a. 12
 - b. 9
 - c. 24

d. 18

7. If an American were to write an epic poem, what might the theme be?

- a. The importance of freedom
- b. The importance of family
- c. The importance of morality
- d. The importance of heroes

8. What is an epithet?

- a. A pithy saying or remark expressing an idea in a clever and diverting way
- b. A phrase or statement written in memory of a person who has died (exp. inscriptions on tombstones)
- c. An adjective or descriptive phrase that is regularly used to categorize a person, place, or thing
- d. A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when alluding to something unpleasant or embarrassing

9. What is an epic simile?

- a. A comparison between two unlike things using “like” or “as”
- b. An elaborated, more involved version of a regular simile
- c. An exaggerated statement or claim not meant to be taken literally
- d. A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action that is not actually applicable for that particular thing

10. Who is Odysseus?

- a. He is one of the gods of Olympus
- b. He is the lover of Kraken
- c. He is one of the heroes of the Trojan War
- d. He is the creator of the epic poem

11. Which one of these characters is NOT a Greek deity?

- a. Athena
- b. Hades
- c. Scylla
- d. Poseidon

12. Why would the gods and goddesses most often reveal themselves to humans?

- a. To punish them
- b. To help them face and deal with a task
- c. To reward them
- d. To create demi-gods

13. How long was Odysseus away from home?

- a. 5 years
- b. 10 years
- c. 20 years

d. 30 years

14. What was Odysseus in search of within the text?

a. The holy grail

b. Olympus

c. Menelaus' killer

d. His family

15. In which of the following movies can you find elements of the hero's journey?

a. Frozen

b. 007: Skyfall

c. The Spongebob Squarepants Movie

d. Avatar