

The *Odyssey* –A Literary Analysis

Epic Poetry as Genre

Setting

Characters

Plot

Structure

Cultural Touchstone

Cast of Characters:

Humans:

- Odysseus
- Telamakhos
- Penelope
- Menaleaus
- Nausikaa
- Eumaios—swineherd
- Laertes
- Antinoos
- Euryklea
- Theoklymenos

Gods and their offspring:

- Athena
- Posiedon
- Zeus
- Hermes

- Kalypso
- Kikones
- Kyklopes (Polyphemes)
- Laistrygones
- Kirke
- Lotos Eaters
- Seirenes
- Skylla
- Kharybdis
- Thrinakia—Helios' cattle

Some of the oppositions in the poem:

- Civilized/ Uncivilized
- Natural/Supernatural
- Loyalty/Disloyalty
- Faithful/Unfaithful
- Passive/Active
- Order/Disorder

Contrasting characters:

- Penelope/Helen
- Penelope/Klytemnestra
- Odysseus/Telemakhos
- Agamemnon/Odysseus
- Suitors/Swineherd