the *Odyssey* - List of Characters

Alcinoos: King of the Phaiacians

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

Antinoos: “Ringleader” of Penelopeia’s suitors

Arete: King Alcinoos’ 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”; daughter of Helios

Demodocos: Blind minstrel

Eumaios: Swineherd; a faithful servant of Odysseus

Eupeithes: Father of Antinoos

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

Eurymachos: 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”

Melanthios: another of Penelope’s cruelest suitors; a goatherd

Nausicaa: Daughter of King Alcinovs; “tall and divinely beautiful”

Penelope: Odysseus’s faithful wife

Philoitios: Faithful cattle drover

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

Polyphemos: “Most powerful of all the Cyclopians” ; son of Poseidon

Telemachos: Odysseus’s son; “a fine-looking boy”; approximately twenty years old

Theoclymenos: Prophet who returns to Ithaca with Telemachos

Teiresias: Blind Theban prophet