DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions as we discuss them in class.

1. Who are heroes?
2. What “epic” heroes have you heard of prior to reading *The Odyssey*?
3. What are the characteristics of someone who is heroic?
4. Define epic hero.
5. Anticipation Guide Statements Me Group Aft. Pt 1
The best travel is one that is well-planned and has no surprises.
Good leaders are people who can think on their feet.
Fear is an excellent motivator.
It is important to be able to adapt to changes.
6. What city did Odysseus and his men plunder?
7. What does Odysseus speech say about him and his character?
8. What is Odysseus driving force in his voyage?
9. For what quality does Odysseus say he is famous?
10. Who are Circe and Calypso?
11. How does Odysseus feel about his home in Ithaca? Why, then, does he stay with Circe and Calypso for so long?
12. How long has the war been over at this time? Or, how long has Odysseus been on the sea?
13. Who has asked Odysseus to tell his story?
14. What happens to the men in the land of the Cicones?
15. What beliefs and values are reflected in lines 65-69?
16. Indicate words that mark the passage of time. What words in line 82 remind you that this part is a flashback?
17. Which characteristics of an epic hero does Odysseus show in the episode with the Lotus Eaters?
18. How are the Lotus Eaters a threat to Odysseus and his men?
19. What are some of the warnings of conflict in lines 110-120?
20. Given Odysseys’ criticism of the Cyclopes, what kind of society do you think the Greeks valued?
21. What do lines 127-133 reveal about ancient Greek attitudes toward the importance of community?
22. How does the image of Apollo compare with your impressions of the ancient Greek gods?
23. Where is the Cyclops when Odysseus and his men enter the cave?
24. Should Odysseus stay for more information or leave to avoid trouble (line 170)?
25. What character flaw does the hero Odysseus reveal by refusing to leave the cave?
26. What earlier events give Odysseus reason to be proud of his men and his own behavior?
27. What ancient Greek beliefs regarding the gods, military might, and respect for strangers does Odysseus express in his words to the Cyclops?
28. Why would the Cyclops want to know the location of the Greeks’ ship?
29. What does the “ready lie” of Odysseus’ response show about his character?
30. In what way does Odysseus’ response show that he is “formidable for guile?”
31. What does Odysseus tell the Cyclops happened to his ship?
32. What factors complicate the Greeks’ attempts at escaping?
33. How do lines 244-250 show Odysseus’ ability to think ahead?
34. What traits does this statue of Athena illustrate?
35. What are Odysseus’ plans with the olive tree?
36. What heroic qualities does Odysseus reveal as he plots against the Cyclops?
37. What plan do you think Odysseus has in mind by offering the Cyclops the wine?
38. What does Odysseus plan to do with the stake that he and his men make?
39. What impact does Odysseus reference to “the gods” in line 323?
40. How many men has the Cyclops eaten? How does Odysseus survive? Why is this important?
41. What does Odysseus’ gleeful response to his trick reveal about his character?
42. What do the other Cyclopes think Polyphemus is saying when he says, “Nohbdy’s tricked me?”
43. What are the Cyclops’ greatest assets or weapons? What do these conversations reveal about the
44. What details of this speech show that Polyphemus is much less clever than Odysseus?
45. How is the example of Odysseus’ behavior in lines 431-435 different from the earlier account?
46. Despite his heroism, what human weaknesses does Odysseus reveal as he sails away?
47. How do the men escape from Cyclops’ cave?
48. Who is the Cyclops’ father and what can he do? What do lines 472-93 suggest about ancient
49. What does the Cyclops ask for in his prayer to Poseidon?
50. How does the illustration compare to your own mental images of the scene?
51. Why might Odysseus want to be generous with his men? What admirable quality does Odysseus have?
52. Describe the wind that controls the Greeks’ ships. What details here suggest that the source of wind was mysterious to ancient Greeks?
53. What does Circe say that Odysseus must do in order to reach home?
54. What can you infer about the Greeks’ beliefs concerning the afterlife from lines 555-77, the painting on p. 970 & your study?
55. Whom is Odysseus trying to summon by making sacrifices?
56. What ancient Greek values and beliefs are suggested by Elpenor’s requests?
57. How do the characters on this vase compare with your image of the characters in the Odyssey? How does this image help you better understand this story?
58. What patterns do you see in Odysseus travels so far? What Greek value is reflected in the “narrow strait” that Tiresias describes?
59. According to Tiresias, what will Odysseus find when he returns home?
60. How would Odysseus’ men respond if they were asked to perform a task that has not been explained? What does Odysseus reveal about his character by sharing information with his men?
61. What instructions does Odysseus give his shipmates as they prepare to deal with the Sirens?
62. What does Odysseus’ mention of Helios reveal about ancient Greek beliefs regarding astronomical events?
63. How does Odysseus keep his shipmates from hearing the Sirens sing?
64. What types of flattery would be most successful with a ship of sailors? Which details in the Sirens’ song are designed to flatter the epic hero?
65. What parts of Odysseus’ speech demonstrate his strength as a leader?
66. What demand does Odysseus make of his men as they approach rough waters?
67. How did Odysseus & his men respond to the loss of men in prior events? What quality of heroic leadership does Odysseus show in lines 823-825?
68. Why might the Greeks have envisioned individual gods controlling different natural elements? Which details here suggest that ancient Greeks believed the gods controlled the weather?
69. How did Poseidon feel toward Odysseus? How does this passage show that ancient Greeks believed their gods had human-like emotions?
70. Who owns the heifers and sheep on the island?
71. Why do you think Odysseus is able to resist the temptation to eat the cows he sees before him? Why can Eurylochus convince the sailors to eat the cattle? How are the values of Eurylochus different from those of Odysseus?
72. Why or how does the inclusion of real places make the story’s imaginary events more believable?
73. What do Odysseus’ shipmates do while he is sleeping?
74. How could Odysseus have information about a converstation between two gods? Would Odysseus mind have changed if he had known about Zeus’ promise to hit his ship with a “bolt?” What details in lines 920-32 clarify the flashback presented here?
75. Are there any other survivors from the wreck? What hope do you see for Odysseus to return home? Which of Odysseus’ heroic qualities does he demonstrate in this passage?
76. How is Odysseus’ ship destroyed?
77. How does the ship in the painting compare to modern-day ships?
78. In what way does line 994-97 remind you that Odysseus is telling his story to an audience?
79. Summarize Book 9.
80. Summarize Book 10.
81. Summarize Book 12.
82. Additional Notes