

CLASH OF THE GODS

ODYSSEUS: CURSE OF THE SEA

Video Discussion Questions

Discussion questions:

1. Why was Odysseus originally called away from home?
2. Why do you think he was willing to take on this challenge despite the risks involved?
3. What are three words you would use to describe Odysseus?
4. How does he compare with other “heroes” in literature?
5. Do you think he meets the definition of a hero? Discuss.
6. At several points in the epic, Odysseus’ men let their guards down and pay a steep price. What is an example of this, and what are the lessons you could take away from this tale?
7. Who were the Lotus Eaters and how did they affect Odysseus’ men?
8. What was the result of the Lotus Eaters interactions, and what lessons could you take away from this story?
9. How did Odysseus and his men end up in a confrontation with the one-eyed Cyclops?
10. What do you think were the most important decisions they made in order to survive their experience with the Cyclops?
11. Why do you think Penelope remained loyal to Odysseus even though she did not know when he would return?
12. What were some of the things Penelope did to trick her suitors?
13. Throughout *The Odyssey*, the hero and his men face many temptations. What is an example of one of these temptations, and how did it affect the men on their journey?
14. Based on the analysis in this program, where do historians think “Ithaca” might have been located? What are your thoughts about this reasoning?
15. What do you think were the three most important decisions made by Odysseus in the epic? How did these decisions help him survive?
16. Why do you think *The Odyssey* is still considered one of the world’s finest works of literature?

Writing:

1. Write a short encyclopedia entry (300- 350 words) succinctly describing *The Odyssey*, its key passages, and its importance as a literary work.