

MAIN CHARACTERS, NAMES, PLACES IN HOMER'S *THE ODYSSEY* *

HUMANS (& other mortals)	
Agamemnon	Menelaos's brother, head of Greek forces in the Trojan War; met by Ody. In the Underworld; killed by his wife and her lover
Akhaians	most common Homeric name for the Greeks (also called Danaans, Argives)
Akhilleus	greatest Greek warrior in the Trojan War; met by Odysseus in the Underworld
Alkinoos	king of the Phaiakians
Antinoos	"ringleader" of Penelope's suitors
Argos	Odysseus' old hunting dog
Attika	region of mainland Greece where Athens is located
Death (Hades)	God of the Underworld; husband to Persephone
Demodokos	blind minstrel of Phaiakia
Elpenor	Ithakan; companion of Odysseus, who dies falling to from the roof of Kirke's house
Eumaios	swineherd; faithful servant of Odysseus
Eurykleia	faithful old servant of Odysseus and his family
Helen	half-immortal (daughter of Zeus); wife of Menelaos
Iros	beggar in Odysseus's palace at Ithaka
Klytaimnestra	half-sister of Helen, mother of Orestes, who kills her to avenge her murder of her husband, Agamemnon
Laertes	Odysseus's father; lives in seclusion in the country
Lotos Eaters	peaceful people; their land contains an herb that, if consumed, kills one's will to return home
Menelaus	ruler of Pylos; one of the Greek leaders in the Trojan War; visited by Telemakhos
Mentor	Ithakan; fighter at Troy; advisor to Telemakhos; his form is assumed by Athena
Nausikaa	daughter of King Alkinoos; rescuer of Odysseus
Nestor	king of Pylos; fought at Troy; visited by Telemakhos
Odysseus	fighter in the Trojan War; king of Ithaka
Orestes	son of Agamemnon and Klytaimnestra; kills his mother to avenge her having killed his father
Peisistratos	son of Nestor; accompanies Telemakhos from Pylos to Sparta
Penelope	Odysseus's faithful wife
Phemios	singer and harper in Ithaka
Telemakhos	Odysseus' twenty-year-old son
Theoklymenos	Prophet who returns to Ithaka with Telemakhos
Teiresias	blind Theban prophet whom Odysseus meets in the Underworld
GODS (& other immortals)	
Aiolos	lord of the winds
Aphrodite	Olympian goddess of love; wife of Hephaistos; lover of Ares
Apollo	Olympian god of the sun, prophecy, music, plaque; twin brother to Artemis
Ares	Olympian god of bloody, violent war

Artemis	Olympian goddess, twin sister to Apollo, famed for the hunt and archery
Athena	Olympian goddess of wisdom and craft; patron of Odysseus
Dawn	rosy-fingered; goddess
Demeter	Olympian goddess; mother of Persephone
Helios	god of the sun; Odysseus's crew kill his cattle
Hephaistos	Olympian son of Zeus and Hera; blacksmith; husband of Aphrodite
Hera	Olympian goddess of marriage; wife to Zeus
Hermes	Olympian god; divine messenger and escort of souls to the Underworld
Kalypso	nymph (lesser goddess); daughter of Atlas; detains Odysseus for 7 yrs. on her island, Ortygia
Kharybdis	daughter of Poseidon and Ge (the earth); whirlpool opposite Skylla
Kirke	Lesser goddess, who turns some of Odysseus's crew into swine
Kyklopes	man-eating giants encountered by Odysseus
Laistrygones	man-eating giants who destroy all the ships of Odysseus's fleet
"land of Death" a.k.a Hades	The Underworld; multi-part kingdom of Hades and Persephone; place Odysseus visits, encountering the "shades" of formerly living humans, as well as some immortals enduring eternal punishments
Muse	daughter of Zeus and Memory; inspires song
Pallas	epithet (descriptive part of a name) of Athena
Polyphemos	a powerful Kyklopes; son of Poseidon
Poseidon	god of the sea, earthquakes, horses
Sirens	singing sisters who lured passing sailors to their deaths by shipwreck
Skylla	cave-dwelling monster, living near Kharybdis; both were in the Straits of Messina, separating the Italian mainland from Sicily
Zeus	chief of the Olympian gods; brother and consort to Hera; father of Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Hermes, Helen, and many other gods and heroes
PLACES	
Aiaia	island home of Kirke
Ithaka	island home of Odysseus, in Ionian sea off west coast of Greek mainland
Olympos	mountain in NE Greece; legendary home of the Olympian gods
Ogygia	island home of Kalypso
Phaiakia	peaceful land visited by Odysseus; ruled by Alkinoos
Pylos	city-state in the Peloponnese (of Greece); kingdom of Nestor
Sparta	city-state in the Peloponnese (of Greece); kingdom of Menelaos and Helen
Troy (Ilium)	city-state on NW corner of Asia Minor; site of nearly-ten-year's war won by Greek forces

* Edited from material by Hexter, Ralph, *A Guide to the Odyssey* (Vintage, 1993)