

### Odyssey Reading Guide: Sirens to the Sun God's Cattle

For each of the following, write in complete sentences, using your textbook as your guide. It is recommended that you answer the questions as you read.

1. Describe the speech Odysseus gives the men prior to the **Sirens**. What does he tell them, and why does he choose to listen to the Siren's song?
2. How does Odysseus and his men prepare for their encounter with the Sirens?
3. Summarize the Siren's Song. How do they appeal to Odysseus and his men? Look up the words **moor**, **purling**, **pinning**, and **rover** to help you answer the question.
4. What does Odysseus tell his men, and what is their response?
5. Prior to leaving Circe's island, she warned Odysseus that between **Scylla** (the six-headed monster), and **Charybdis** (the whirlpool which swallows ships completely), he must choose Scylla and lose six men, instead of the whole ship with Charybdis. What does Odysseus choose to tell his men (describe his speech to them), and what does he leave out (lines 756 – 794)? Why does he do this?
6. Describe the **Epic Simile** in lines 815 – 820. What is being compared here?

7. Odysseus and his men go to Thrinacia (the Sun God's island), even though they were warned about it. Why does Odysseus and his men go there? Is it a good reason?
  
8. Why do Odysseus' men disregard his warnings about the cattle? How does Eurylochos persuade the others to eat the cattle? Where is Odysseus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What does Odysseus say/do when he realizes his men have eaten the cattle?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What threat does Helios make to Zeus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What strange signs do the gods send to Odysseus' men after they eat the kine (cattle)? Look up the word **lowed**.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Describe what Zeus does to punish Odysseus' men.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Describe how Odysseus survives Zeus, Charybdis, and Scylla.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Find examples from this section of the story that shows Odysseus as a leader. Explain if he is a good/bad leader in these scenes, and explain why.