*Odyssey*

LIST OF CHARACTERS

This list does not include all characters appearing in the *Odyssey*, but it does include those who are most essential to the action of the story.

***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” and 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 [Telemachus] more than any other of the household, and she had been his nurse when he was a little tot.”

***Eurymachos:*** One of Penelopeia’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:*** One of Penelopeia’s cruelest suitors; a goatherd

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

***Penelopeia:*** 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” and son of Poseidon

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

***Theoclymenos:*** Prophet who returns to Ithaca with Telemachos

***Tiresias:*** Blind Theban prophet