

Paraphrasing *THE ODYSSEY*

Book 1: *A GODDESS INTERVENES*

Paraphrase (put into your own words) each stanza in Book 1. Use complete sentences.

The Muses are speaking through the narrator and telling the tale of Odysseus.

Odysseus was at sea for a long time. His shipmates were immature, and because they were reckless they died. They murdered the cattle of Helios (sun god), who got mad at them.

The narrator (as of now) is going to be the Muses.
Because the Muses told the story, it lifted up the great song.

Sum up what occurs in Book 1 in one or two sentences:

Since the Muses tell the story of Odysseus, the song was lifted up again.

Book 1 is the beginning of Odysseus' story.

This is the intro to the story explaining how the Muses are going to tell the story of Odysseus' journey.

Book 9: *NEW COASTS AND POSEIDON'S SON - "I AM LAERTES' SON"*

Summarize in complete sentences what Odysseus says in lines 1-28 (pgs. 372-373)

- Odysseus hooks up with goddesses. 72 of his men were killed by the Cicones.
- Odysseus starts telling his story to King Alcinous.
- He explains to King Alcinous who he is and where he lives.

NEW COASTS AND POSEIDON'S SON - THE CYCLOPS (beginning on pg. 374)

Paraphrase each page (374-385). Use complete sentences.

pg. 374

- The first couple of stanzas explain the lifestyle of the Cyclopes. It talks about Odysseus and his men pulling up to the Cyclopes island.
- Odysseus starts telling his tale of the Cyclopes, and how they lived on an island of pleasure.
- Odysseus goes to the land of the Cyclopes, and he and his troops could have been surprised as to what they saw.

pg. 375

- Odysseus goes to the shore of the Cyclopes island. He goes to a house expecting a gift.
- Odysseus and 12 of his best warriors go on shore. He has a flashback of how he got this amazing wine from Maron.

pg. 376

- Odysseus and his men were inside a Cyclop's cave. They wanted to steal all the cheese and goats they saw, but they didn't. They lit a fire, ate the cheese, and waited for the Cyclops. When he got home, he did his chores and he didn't see them til the end (of the night).
- Odysseus and his 12 fighters get stuck and caught by a Cyclops.

pg. 377

- The Cyclops asked where Odysseus and his crew are from. Odysseus lied and asked where his gift was, trying to threaten the Cyclops. The Cyclops didn't care and asked where the ship was, but Odysseus lied about where it was.
- Odysseus and his men are cornered by the Cyclops who asked him who he was. Odysseus gave somewhat of a lie that angers the Cyclops, causing him to go off on them. Odysseus tells another lie about Poseidon, the Cyclops' dad.
- Odysseus and his men try to explain why they're there, but the Cyclops is still mad.

pg. 378

- Odysseus and his men watched 2 of their own get eaten by the Cyclops. He fell asleep. When he woke up he finished his chores, and ate 2 more men. He left Odysseus and the 8 remaining men in the cave, where they started to make a spear.
- Odysseus' men were killed and eaten for breakfast, and Odysseus and his men were trying to find a way out of the cave.

pg. 379

- Odysseus hid the spear inside the Cyclops' dung. Then at the evening, when the Cyclops tried some of the wine that Odysseus gave him. When the Cyclops asked him what his name was, he didn't answer (yet).
- Odysseus and his 8 men hide the spear behind a dung pile. When the Cyclops got home, he ate 2 more men, Odysseus gave the Cyclops 4 bowls of the liquor. However, it wasn't diluted.

pg. 380

- Odysseus lies about his name. The Cyclops is drunk and falls asleep. Then Odysseus takes the spear, heats it up, and stabs the Cyclops in his eye
- The Cyclops' eye got poked out, but when he called for help, the other Cyclops didn't care.
- Odysseus and his 6 men got the Cyclops drunk, causing him to fall asleep. Then Odysseus and his men got their spear searing hot, then they rammed it in his eye and turned it. The Cyclops pulled the spear out and called for help.

pg. 381

- Since Odysseus lied about his name, when the other Cyclopes came over to check on Polyphemus, they didn't care about what happened since he said that "Nohbdy" did it. Now Odysseus and his men are trying to escape, so they tie 3 sheep together and hide under them.
- Polyphemus called out for help. The others came and asked what happened, but Odysseus said his name was "Nohbdy", so the others left. Polyphemus opens the door and squats in front so the men couldn't escape, but Odysseus was smart and tied 3 sheep together and the men hid under the middle one.

pg. 382

- All of the rams that were tied by 3 got out of the cave, but the one Odysseus was tied under was about to leave and Polyphemus stopped it, asking if it was ok. Odysseus and all of his men got out and led all the rams to their ship. They sailed away, but then Odysseus screams out at the Cyclops.

pg. 383

- Odysseus and his men escape, but Odysseus decides to yell back at the Cyclops. So the Cyclops used his hearing skills, broke a hilltop off and threw it at them, but Odysseus and his men rowed the boat twice as fast. Odysseus is trying to yell again, but his crew said no.
- Odysseus called Polyphemus a cannibal and eater of guests.

pg. 384

- The Cyclops tried to befriend Odysseus, but he said "go to hell", so the Cyclops prayed to his father (Poseidon) so Odysseus will lose track of where he's going and land somewhere else.

pg. 385

- The Cyclops threw another rock behind the boat which made Odysseus and his men go faster toward the other crew at the other island. To make a sacrifice to Zeus, he burnt the ram, but Zeus declined the offering.

Summarize in two or three sentences what occurred when Odysseus and his men came across the Cyclops:

- Odysseus took 12 of his men and left with 6. Odysseus poked the Cyclops' eye, and escaped with his herd of sheep, then met the rest of his crew to sacrifice the ram, which Zeus denied.
- They find a Cyclops' cave. They're attacked by him. Six of them are killed in two days. They blind him with a giant poker whatever, and then they escape.
- Odysseus and his men landed on another island. Odysseus takes 12 of his best men to venture to it, but they get captured by Polyphemus who eats 6 of his men, but Odysseus, being clever, outsmarted him.

Book 10: *CIRCE, THE GRACE OF THE WITCH*

Summarize in complete sentences what Odysseus says in lines 1-45 (pg. 386-387)

- Odysseus sent a group of his men to explore the island, but Circe turned them into pigs. Eurylochus went to tell Odysseus what happened. In order to get his men back, Odysseus needs to go to the Land of the Dead and return with a message.

Book 21: *THE TEST OF THE BOW* (beginning on pg. 403)

Paraphrase each page (403-407). Use complete sentences.

pg. 403

- Penelope takes the bow out of the box and is sad because she's thinking about how Odysseus isn't coming back, because he's probably dead because he's been gone for so long. She's going to explain the rules of the challenge to the men.
- She brings out the bow and axe heads.

pg. 404

- Penelope tells the men the rules of the challenge and Odysseus talks to 2 men that he knew 20 years ago, and asks them if they'd be loyal to Odysseus.

pg. 405

- Odysseus shows the 2 men a scar and they believe him and get really excited but try to contain it so someone doesn't tell the suitors.
- Odysseus tells his 2 servants it's him. They don't believe him at first, but he shows them a scar. The 2 servants start crying. Odysseus tells one to bring the bow and lock the women away, and the other one to lock the outer gate.

pg. 406-407

- Odysseus has a turn at the bow. He examines it first then shows up the other suitors by string it easily and shooting the arrow through the 12 axe heads.
- Telemachus stands behind Odysseus because he realizes it was his father.