

English 9B: Help and Unit 1 Test Study Guide

To find definitions as well as synonyms and antonyms. You will find examples and how they are used in a sentence. You can also use the *Kids Definition* feature which will help you better understand and define the words.

Please go to <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Vocabulary words:

- Scudding
- Mustered
- Prodigious
- Revelry
- Enticing
- Regaled
- Lavished
- Profusion

For context clues strategies and practice:

Make a copy so you can view the infographic-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wEz041Sb36TMHVuhpgnuEMtu8-6-3iPexFGJepKFwHE/copy>

Practice and strategies-

<https://www.mdc.edu/kendall/collegeprep/documents2/context%20cluesrev8192.pdf>

Definitions and synonyms:

- Ardor
- Sage
- Contending
- Prodigious
- Foreboding

1. In the *Odyssey*, what personality trait does Odysseus reveal when he devises a plan to listen to the Sirens' song and yet escape destruction?

2. Read the Passage about The *Odyssey*:

“There’s our sign!

I know not more. Could someone else’s hand

Have sawn that trunk and dragged the frame away?”

**Their secret! As she heard it told, her knees
Grew tremulous and weak, her heart failed her.
With eyes brimming tears she ran to him,
Throwing her arms around his neck and kissed him,**

From this passage, what can you infer about Penelope and how she feels about her husband?

Figurative Language: Please review your concepts on [figurative language](#) from the *Odyssey*. You will need to review the definitions for simile, personification, and hyperbole.

2.

Read the following passage about Odysseus from Part 2 of the *Odyssey*:

But the man skilled in all ways of contending,
satisfied by the great bow's look and heft,
like a musician, like a harper, when
with quiet hand upon his instrument
he draws between his thumb and forefinger
a sweet new string upon a peg: so effortlessly
Odysseus in one motion strung the bow.

What does this simile tell us about Odysseus?

3. In the *Odyssey*, Odysseus's comment to Telemachus, "This is not princely, to be swept/away by wonder at your father's presence," implies what about Greek cultural values?

4.

Why is the following simile from *The Odyssey* effective?

“Now from his breast into his eyes the ache
of longing mounted, and he wept at last,
his dear wife, clear and faithful, in his arms,
longed for
as the sunwarmed earth is longed for by a swimmer
spent in rough water where his ship went down
under Poseidon’s blows, gale winds and tons of sea.”

4.

5. . How do Penelopy’s actions develop the theme of loyalty in *The Odyssey*?

6. What are 3 examples of how Orpheus used music to accomplish his goals in *Orpheus and Eurydice*?

7. Why did the author include this hyperbole in the story?

Read the following hyperbole from *Orpheus and Eurydice*:

“Rivers stopped flowing along the banks so that they could hear Orpheus, whose music was more harmonious than theirs.”

8. What does this simile from *The Odyssey* illustrate?

Read the following passage about Odysseus from Part 2 of the *Odyssey*:

Now, being a man, I could not help consenting.
So I went down to the sea beach and the ship,
where I found all my other men on board, 120
weeping, in despair along the benches.
Sometimes in farmyards when the cows return
well-fed from pasture to the barn, one sees
the pens give way before the calves in tumult,
breaking through to cluster about their mothers, 125
bumping together, bawling. Just that way
my crew poured round me when they saw me come—
their faces wet with tears as if they saw
their homeland, and the crags of Ithaca,
even the very town where they were born.

9.

What is the literal meaning of the following personification from *The Odyssey*?

“When the young Dawn with fingertips of rose / lit up the world,”

10. **Why does Circe say this to Odysseus?**

Read the following passage from the *Odyssey*:

“Square in your ship’s path are Sirens, crying
beauty to bewitch men coasting by;
woe to the innocent who hears that sound!
He will not see his lady nor his children
in joy, crowding about him, home from sea;
the Sirens will sing his mind away
on their sweet meadow lolling. There are bones
of dead men rotting in a pile beside them
and flayed skins shrivel around the spot.”

11.

Compare the presentation of Penelope in “An Ancient Gesture” with Homer’s portrait of her in *The Odyssey*. Which of the following is an important difference between the two?

12.

What is the "ancient gesture" performed by Penelope and the persona in the poem, "An Ancient Gesture"?

13. Why does Penelope speak these lines to Odusseus in *The Odyssey*?

Read the following quote from *The Odyssey*:

"Strange man,
if man you are... This is no pride on my part
nor scorn for you—not even wonder, merely.
I know so well how you—how he—appeared
boarding the ship for Troy. But all the same..."

Short answer essays: Please read and refer to the stories in Unit 1 and complete a summary paragraph. You should use the Pearson Textbook called Pathways to read your story.

Please read and refer to *The Odyssey*, *Orpheus and Eurydice*, or *The Penelopiad*.

Pathways textbook: [Pathways \(PDF\)](#)

****Video explanation for this short answer essay from your teacher. Please click on the link:**

<https://watch.screencastify.com/v/ERMmoRGhhaEyt2f17gQ8>

UNIT SIX *Echoes from the Past*

from the *Odyssey*, Part I

Homer epic 466

POETRY CONNECTION

Ithaka

C. P. Cavafy poem 485

from the *Odyssey*, Part II

Homer epic 488

POETRY CONNECTION

Siren Song

Margaret Atwood poem 501

from the *Odyssey*, Part III

Homer epic 504

POETRY CONNECTION

An Ancient Gesture

Edna St. Vincent Millay poem 520

from *The Penelopiad*

Margaret Atwood novel excerpt 522

Orpheus and Eurydice

Betty Bonham Lies myth 530

Eurydice

Sarah Ruhl drama 538

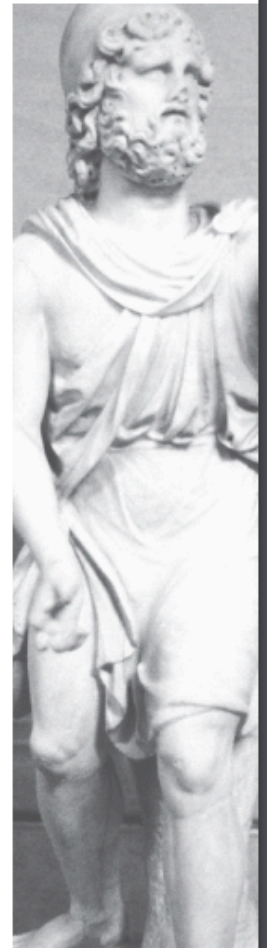
WRITERS ON WRITING

Introduction to *We Goddesses*:

Athena, Aphrodite, Hera

Doris Orgel book preface 584

A WRITER'S WORKSHOP Summary 592



7. Short answer essay

What roles are played by the female characters in Homer's *Odyssey*? Describe two female characters including their traits and roles they played in your explanation of the overall portrayal of women. Be sure to consider the selections of the epic that had male characters as protagonists.

For this questions you will want to consider two factors:

- A. What **character traits** did each of these female characters possess? Choose at least 1 for each. Your answer to this will be your **central idea** or **main idea**.
- B. Were their actions helpful or harmful to the male protagonists? (what role did they play?) You will need 4 examples of this. Two per character.

8.

The Odyssey reveals the character traits of its epic hero, Odysseus. Select a particular encounter from *The Odyssey*. What traits of Odysseus does it reveal? Explain their influence—positive or negative—on his quest to reach his home in Ithaca.

- A. What are the character traits of Odysseus? Choose at least 2. Select a particular encounter from the *Odyssey*. Your answer to this will be your central idea or main idea.
- B. Explain their influence-positive or negative-on his quest to return to his home world of Ithaca. You will need 4 examples of this.