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| Key Motif: Identity and Names |
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| |  | | --- | | **Prereading Questions**  **1.** VOLUNTEER QUESTION ONLY – Where did you get your name?  2. What significance does it have for you? |   **Lecture Focus: What’s in a Name?**   * Odyssey is focused a great deal on the motif of identity and self-definition * Not a surprise that the epic is focused on names * Odysseus = Literally means “son of pain.” * At some point in the epic, though, he will call himself “Nobody” or “no-man.” The Greek word for “nobody” is “Outis” – in other words, a word that sounds like the first part of his own name (ODYS…) * Names signal other traits:   + Telemachus – “Far from Battle”   + Calypso - “I conceal”   + Circe – “The Encircler”   **Odysseus’ Epithets**   * 1. Polymetis = Man of designs   2. Polymechanikos – Man of many devices   3. Polytropos – Man of many turns and twists   4. Polyatlas – Much-enduring   **Focus passage: Odysseus and Nausicaa**  Read the scene between Odysseus and Nausicaa that follows. Then answer the “Reader Questions,” referring to the text to support your claim.   * In what way is the epic simile here used humorously or ironically? * In many ways, this passage is pretty funny. Odysseus is basically Weird Homeless Dude with No Clothes, and Nausicaa is basically like a Disney princess. Why is Homer using humor at this point? * Odysseus has absolutely nothing – he is thrown up on shore naked and vulnerable, with not even his name. He is “no man.” What point about identity is Homer making with this serious “de-volution” of Odysseus’ status here? |