

## The *Odyssey*: Major Characters & Deities

Aeolos (Ay-**oh**-lus) As the Wind King, he has control of all the winds that blow from every direction. He lives on an island with his sons and daughters.

Alkinous (Al-**kin**-oh-us) The king of Phaiakia, husband of Queen Arete, father of princess Nausikka.

Antinous (An-**tin**-oh-us) One of two main suitors for the hand of Queen Penelope

Arete (Ah-**ret**-ay) The queen of Phaiakia, wife of King Alkinous, mother of princess Nausikka (her name means “goodness”)

Charibdys (Shar-**ib**-dis) A huge dangerous whirlpool in the sea that can suck down passing ships.

Demodocus (Dem-**mod**-i-cus) The poet on retainer to the court of King Alkinous.

Eumaios (Eu-**my**-os) The swineherd who lives on Ithaka and cares for Odysseus’ pigs

Eurylochus (Eu-**ril**-i-cus) Odysseus cousin and second in command of his troops

Eurymachus (Eu-**rim**-i-cus) The predominant suitor for the hand of Queen Penelope.

Helios (**Hee**-lee-os) The sun god who owns a herd of immortal cattle that he keeps on an island.

Ithaka (**Ith**-ee-ka) The island where Odysseus grew up and where he once reigned as king before the Trojan war.

Kalypso (Ka-**lip**-so) a daughter of the titan Atlas, on whose island Odysseus stays for seven years before returning to Ithaka.

Kirke (**Kir**-kee) the sorceress on who lives on the island of Aeaea

Laertes (Lay-**er**-tees) Odysseus’ father, who lives now in a shack in the country and pines for his son’s return.

Mentes (**Men**-tees) Athena disguised as a Taphthian captain who once played host to Odysseus.

Mentor (**Men**-tor) An old man Odysseus left to look after his son Telemachus while he was away at Troy.

Nausikka (Naw-**see**-ka) The princess of the Phaiakians, daughter of Queen Arete and King Alkinous.

Penelope (Pen-**nel**-o-pee) Odysseus' wife and the queen of Ithaka, mother of Odysseus' son Telemachus.

Phemios (**Fee**-mee-us) The poet who plays and sings for the suitors who are courting Penelope; he is part of Odysseus' household.

Philoetius (Fi-lo-**ee**-tee-os) A cowherd for Odysseus on Ithaka

Polydamas, the Cyclops (Pol-ee-**da**-mus) A son of the sea god Poseidon

Pylos (**Pi**-los) Kingdom of Nestor

Skylla (**Skil**-la) a six-headed monster

Sparta (**Spar**-ta) Kingdom of Menelaos

Telemachus (Tel-**em**-a-cus) Odysseus' only son, whose home is on Ithaka

The Lestrigonians (Les-tri-**gon**-ee-ans) A tribe of Cannibals

The Phaiakians (Phi-**ee**-ee-ans) Seafaring people who live on the island of Scheria

Tiresias (Ti-**ree**-see-us) The most famous of all prophets; he is blind.