The Odyssey (Review of Odysseus’ travels so far, after sailing from Troy)

1. Cicones/Island of Ismaros
   1. Unnecessary invasion of the island by Odysseus’ crew
   2. Counterattack
   3. Odysseus loses many men
2. Storm from Zeus (9 days)
   1. Takes them off course
3. Lotus Eaters
   1. Benevolent people
   2. Eat plant/fruit of the lotus, which causes forgetfulness
   3. Odysseus’ men wish to stay here but are thwarted
4. Cyclopes
   1. Anti-Greek monster (inhospitable, unintelligent, lawless, no agriculture, no religion)
   2. Odysseus winning against him symbolizes the triumph of Greek culture
   3. Polyphemus’ prophecy against Odysseus
5. Aiolia/King Aiolus
   1. Keeper of winds gives bag of winds to Odysseus as a gift to help him get home safely
   2. The bag is prematurely opened by Odysseus’ jealous crew
   3. Blown back to Aiolia
   4. King refuses to help again, casting them out for fear of the gods
6. Laistrygonians
   1. Cannibal race
   2. Lure them in
   3. Ambush/attack on the ships
   4. Only Odysseus’ ship escapes
7. Circe
   1. Witch; turns men into animals (swine in this case)
   2. Odysseus is given a magic herb by Hermes to avoid her curse
   3. He becomes her love slave after she changes his men back
   4. The men didn’t want to be changed back
   5. They stay with her for a year until they remember home
   6. Circe’s advice to go home: Find the prophet Tiresias (who is in the Underworld/Hades) so he can tell you all how to get back home.
8. Land of the Dead
   1. Libations (pouring of wine) and animal sacrifices (blood) bring forth the dead.
   2. Elpenor talks to Odysseus
      1. A young man who died unknowingly at Circe’s place; he asks for his unburied body to be properly buried;
      2. The Greeks respect the dead highly
   3. Anticlea, Odysseus’ mother
      1. Doesn’t speak to her but shows pain
   4. Tiresias: Prophet
      1. Explains why Odysseus is suffering: Polyphemus/Cyclops incident angered Poseidon
      2. Explains what will happen: All Odysseus’ men will die; he will return in a strange ship
      3. Warning: Don’t eat Helios’ cattle
      4. Foretells Odysseus will kill the suitors
      5. Recommends he make a sacrifice to Poseidon
      6. Foretells he’ll die at an old age
      7. Odysseus returns to the world of the living