

The Telemachy:

Book I

Invocation and part summary – council of the gods – Athena visits Telemachus in Ithaca and urges him to go in search of his father – the suitors feast in the house of Telemachus

Book II

Assembly on Ithaca – Telemachus publicly requests the suitors to go home – secret departure of Telemachus and Athena.

Book III

Athena and Telemachus arrive in Pylos – entertainment by Nestor and his family – Telemachus and Peisistratos leave for Sparta.

Book IV

Arrival at Sparta – entertainment by Menelaus and Helen – the wanderings of Menelaus – report that Odysseus is on Calypso's island – at Ithaca the suitors learn of Telemachus' departure and lay ambush for him.

From Calypso to the Phaeacians:

Book V

Council of the gods – Hermes tells Calypso to let Odysseus go – he sails on a raft but is wrecked by Poseidon – he swims ashore on Scheria.

Book VI

Odysseus encounters Nausicaa, the princess of the Phaeacians, and is accepted as a guest.

Book VII

Reception of Odysseus by Alcinous and Arete.

Book VIII

Odysseus at the games of the Phaeacians – he is asked to tell his name and his story.

The Wanderings of Odysseus: (see map on next page of this handout)

Book IX

The wanderings of Odysseus – the raid on the Ciconians (Trojan allies) – the Lotus-Eaters – the adventure with Polyphemus the Cyclops.

Book X

The wanderings of Odysseus – Aeolus and the bag of winds – Odysseus blown back to sea after sighting Ithaca – the adventure with the Laestrygonians – Circe's island – the men transformed and restored.

Book XI

The wanderings of Odysseus – voyage to the land of the dead – interviews – Elpeno – Teiresias – Anticleia – the heroines – interlude in Scheria – interviews – the heroes – return to Circe.

Book XII

The wanderings of Odysseus – the Sirens – Scylla and Charybdis – the

cattle of Helios – loss of the last ship and all of the companions – Odysseus rescued by Calypso – end of his story to the Phaeacians.

The Homecoming of Odysseus:

Book XIII

Return of Odysseus to Ithaca – he is landed, alone – strange return of the Phaeacian ship – Athena comes to Odysseus and advises him.

Book XIV

Odysseus received by Eumaeus – he tells Eumaeus the (false) story of his life.

Book XV

Telemachus, urged by Athena, leaves Sparta – from Pylos, he sails for home – Odysseus still with Eumaeus – life story of Eumaeus – Telemachus eludes the ambush and reaches Ithaca.

Book XVI

Telemachus visits Eumaeus – Odysseus reveals himself to Telemachus – Penelope and the suitors learn that Telemachus has returned – night at the house of Eumaeus.

Book XVII

Return of Telemachus to his house – Odysseus, disguised as a beggar, goes to the house with Eumaeus – Odysseus begs from the suitors.

Book XVIII

Fight between Odysseus and Irus – Penelope appears briefly before the suitors – after disorderly incidents the suitors go home.

Book XIX

Interview by night between Odysseus and Penelope – Odysseus almost betrayed by his scar – the story of the scar – plan for the test of the bow.

Book XX

Next morning all the principal characters gather in the house.

Book XXI

The test of the bow – the suitors fail – Odysseus succeeds.

Book XXII

The killing of the suitors – the punishment of the faithless servants.

Book XXIII

Recognition of Odysseus by Penelope – reunion – Odysseus goes to Laertes' farm.

Book XXIV

The heroes of Troy learn the story from the ghosts of the suitors – Odysseus reveals himself to Laertes – burial of the suitors by their relatives, who plan revenge – final combat between Odysseus and his party and the relatives of the suitors – peace imposed by Athena.

