

Name:
Date:

Period:
Ms. Lopez

Odyssey Background Questions

Completely answer all parts of each question using the given background material on Homer's *Odyssey*.

1. What is an epic?
2. Name another epic besides the *Odyssey* and indicate where it is from.
3. According to the *Iliad*, what event started the Trojan War, and in reality, what more likely started the Trojan War?
4. Explain "postwar disillusionment."
5. Why did Robert Graves theorize Homer was a woman?
6. The *Odyssey* begins en media res. What does that mean?
7. How do each of the gods Athena and Poseidon reflect Odysseus' characteristics?
8. Identify **two** reasons there is so much repetition in a Homeric epic.
9. Explain the purpose of an epic simile.
10. How many lines is the entire *Odyssey*?