

Name:
Date:

Period:
Ms. Lopez

Homer's *Odyssey* Book 9 – “Tale of the Cyclops” Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why does Odysseus want to remain at the cave until the owner comes home?
2. Why does Odysseus lie and say his ship was destroyed?
3. Odysseus compares Polyphemus to what large natural object?
4. Why doesn't Odysseus stab Polyphemus the first night while the Cyclops sleeps?
5. What “gift” does Polyphemus offer Odysseus for telling him his name?
6. What lie does Odysseus tell Polyphemus?
7. Explain in detail how Odysseus wounds Polyphemus.
8. Why can't Polyphemus get the other Cyclopes to help him?
9. Why can't Odysseus and his men easily escape from the blinded Polyphemus?
10. What plan does Odysseus devise to escape the cave?
11. Why does the author have Polyphemus stop the large ram Odysseus hides under and talk to the sheep? What effect does this have on the reader?
12. What two mistakes does Odysseus make as he is escaping from Polyphemus?
13. What are the results of each his two mistakes? (one is “the curse”-explain it)
14. Why does Odysseus make these mistakes?
15. What does Polyphemus reveal about his wounded eye?

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