***Odyssey* Study Guide: Book I**

**Translated by W. H. D. Rouse**

1. Where is Odysseus at the beginning of the story? What has become of this man?

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1. When the gods adjourn for council, what is preoccupying Zeus?

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1. Why does Poseidon hold a grudge against Odysseus even though the other gods favor him?

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1. Where is Poseidon when the gods at council decide to help Odysseus to return home?

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1. Why does Zeus reason that Poseidon will be pacified that the gods have decided to help Odysseus reach his home?

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1. What two actions does Athena deem should be taken on Odysseus’ behalf?

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1. Why does Athena want Telemachus to go out in search of news of his father?

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1. Where do the gods hold their councils?

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1. Who does Athena instruct Telemachus to visit in search of news of his father?

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1. What example does Athena (disguised as Mentes) use to encourage Telemachus to kill the suitors that plague his home with discourtesy and disrespect?

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1. Which of Odysseus’ qualities does Zeus cite in order to convince Athena that he is partial to the hero?

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1. Cite instances where the idea of fate is invoked in book one.

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1. Telemachus tries to assert his dominance as the master of the house by ordering his mother up to her room and threatening the suitors with death if they ignore his “formal notice to depart” (Pg. 17) in the morning. How do the suitors react to his behavior.

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