

Some Major Characters (Odyssey, books 1-4)

GODS

Muses (*goddesses who inspire poetry*)

Zeus (*king of the gods*)

Poseidon (*god of the sea*)

Pallas Athena (*goddess of wisdom, war, women, weaving*)

Parallel families

ODYSSEUS'S HOUSEHOLD	AGAMEMNON'S HOUSEHOLD	MENELAUS'S HOUSEHOLD
<i>Father:</i> Laertes	<i>Father:</i> Atreus	<i>Father:</i> Atreus
<i>Self:</i> Odysseus	<i>Self:</i> Agamemnon	<i>Self:</i> Menelaus
<i>Wife:</i> Penelope	<i>Wife:</i> Clytemnestra	<i>Wife:</i> Helen
<i>Rivals:</i> Suitors	<i>Rival:</i> Aegisthus	<i>Rival:</i> Paris
<i>Son:</i> Telemachus	<i>Son:</i> Orestes	<i>Son:</i> none by Helen (in the <i>Odyssey</i>)
	<i>Brother:</i> Menelaus	<i>Brother:</i> Agamemnon