

Some key terms for the *Odyssey*

in medias res (Latin): “into the middle of things”

nostos : “homecoming”

kleos : “glory, fame”

proem : opening lines of poem, introducing main theme

xenia : “guest-host relationship”

xenos : “guest” or “host”

nekuia : visit to the Underworld (compare *katabasis* in the *Aeneid*) – name for Book 11

outis / metis : “nobody”

atasthalia : “recklessness” (of the suitors, of Odysseus’s men)

homophrosyne : “likemindedness”

polytropos : “of twists and turns” (epithet for Odysseus, describing his journey, his wiles, his storytelling)