

SPEECHES FROM BOOK 7

Directions: Each of the following is a small speech from the Odyssey. Print them out, cut them up, and write the student's name whom you have assigned it to at the top. It would be a good idea, before class, to go through the divided readings and assign them based on student reading levels and memorization skills. Note to whom you've assigned which reading so when they come into class tomorrow, you can easily have them recite their sections in order and begin to hear the story unfold more as it would have been in Homer's day.

- 1) Odysseus: "[Arete](#), daughter of godlike [Rhexenor](#), to thy husband and to thy knees am I come after many toils, — aye and to these banqueters, to whom may the gods grant happiness in life, and may each of them hand down to his children [150] the wealth in his halls, and the dues of honor which the people have given him. But for me do ye speed my sending, that I may come to my native land, and that quickly; for long time have I been suffering woes far from my friends."
- 2) Old lord Echeneus, an elder among the Phaeacians: "[Alcinous](#), lo, this is not the better way, nor is it seemly, [160] that a stranger should sit upon the ground on the [hearth](#) in the ashes; but these others hold back waiting for thy word. Come, make the stranger to arise, and set him upon a silver-studded chair, and bid the heralds mix wine, [165] that we may pour [libations](#) also to [Zeus](#), who hurls the thunderbolt; for he ever attends upon reverend suppliants. And let the housewife give supper to the stranger of the store that is in the house."
- 3) Alcinous: "Hearken to me, leaders and counsellors of the [Phaeacians](#), that I may say what the heart in my breast bids me. Now that ye have finished your feast, go each of you to his house to rest. But in the morning we will call more of the elders together, [190] and will entertain the stranger in our halls and offer goodly victims to the gods."
- 4) Alcinous: "After that we will take thought also of his sending, that without toil or pain yon stranger may under our sending, come to his native land speedily and with rejoicing, though he come from never so far. [195] Nor shall he meanwhile suffer any evil or harm, until he sets foot upon his own land; but thereafter he shall suffer whatever Fate and the dread Spinners spun with their thread for him at his birth, when his mother bore him."
- 5) Alcinous: "But if he is one of the immortals come down from heaven, [200] then is this some new thing which the gods are planning; for ever heretofore have they been wont to appear to us in manifest form, when we sacrifice to them glorious hecatombs, and they feast among us, sitting even where we sit. Aye, and if one of us as a lone wayfarer meets them, [205] they use no concealment, for we are of near kin to them, as are the [Cyclopes](#) and the wild tribes of the Giants."
- 6) Odysseus: "[Alcinous](#), far from thee be that thought; for I am not like the immortals, who hold broad heaven, [210] either in stature or in form, but like mortal men. Whomsoever ye know among men who bear greatest burden of woe, to them might I liken myself in my sorrows. Yea, and I could tell a yet longer tale of all the evils which I have endured by the will of the gods." [215]
- 7) Odysseus: "But as for me, suffer me now to eat, despite my grief; for there is nothing more shameless than a hateful belly, which bids a man perforce take thought thereof, be he never so sore distressed and laden with grief at heart, even as I, too, am laden with grief at heart, yet ever does my belly [220] bid me eat and drink, and makes me forget all that I have suffered, and commands me to eat my fill. But do ye make haste at break of day, that ye may set me, hapless one, on the soil of my native land, even after my many woes. Yea, let life leave me, when I have seen once more [225] my possessions, my slaves, and my great high-roofed house."
- 8) Arete: "Stranger, this question will I myself ask thee first. Who art thou among men, and from whence? Who gave thee this raiment? Didst thou not say that thou camest hither wandering over the sea?"
- 9) Odysseus: "Hard were it, O queen, to tell to the end the tale of my woes, since full many have the heavenly gods given me. But this will I tell thee, of which thou dost ask and enquire. There is an isle, [Ogygia](#), which lies far off in the sea. [245] Therein dwells the fair-tressed daughter of Atlas, guileful Calypso, a dread goddess, and with her no one either of gods or mortals hath aught to do; but me in my wretchedness did fate bring to her [hearth](#) alone, for [Zeus](#) had smitten my swift ship with his bright thunderbolt, [250] and had shattered it in the midst of the wine-dark sea. There all the rest of my trusty comrades perished, but I clasped in my arms the keel of my curved ship and was borne drifting for nine days, and on the tenth black night the gods brought me to the isle, [Ogygia](#), where [255] the fair-tressed Calypso dwells, a dread goddess."

- 10) Odysseus: “She took me to her home with kindly welcome, and gave me food, and said that she would make me immortal and ageless all my days; but she could never persuade the heart in my breast. There for seven years’ space I remained continually, and ever [260] with my tears would I wet the immortal raiment which Calypso gave me. But when the eight year came in circling course, then she roused me and bade me go, either because of some message from [Zeus](#), or because her own mind was turned. And she sent me on my way on a raft, stoutly bound, and gave me abundant store [265] of bread and sweet wine, and clad me in immortal raiment, and sent [forth](#) a gentle wind and warm.
- 11) Odysseus: “So for seventeen days I sailed over the sea, and on the eighteenth appeared the shadowy mountains of your land; and my heart was glad, [270] ill-starred that I was; for verily I was yet to have fellowship with great woe, which [Poseidon](#), the earth-shaker, sent upon me. For he stirred up the winds against me and stayed my course, and wondrously roused the sea, nor would the wave suffer me to be borne upon my raft, as I groaned ceaselessly. [275] My raft indeed the storm shattered, but by swimming I clove my way through yon gulf of the sea, until the wind and the waves, as they bore me, brought me to your shores.”
- 12) Odysseus: “There, had I sought to land, the waves would have hurled me upon the shore, and dashed me against the great crags and a cheerless place, [280] but I gave way, and swam back until I came to a river, where seemed to me the best place, since it was smooth of rocks, and besides there was shelter from the wind. [Forth](#) then I staggered, and sank down, gasping for breath, and immortal night came on. Then I went [forth](#) from the heaven-fed river, [285] and lay down to sleep in the bushes, gathering leaves about me; and a god shed over me infinite sleep.”
- 13) Odysseus: “So there among the leaves I slept, my heart sore stricken, the whole night through, until the morning and until midday; and the sun turned to his setting ere sweet sleep released me. [290] Then I saw the handmaids of thy daughter on the shore at play, and amid them was she, fair as the goddesses. To her I made my prayer; and she in no wise failed in good understanding, to do as thou wouldst not deem that one of younger years would do on meeting thee; for younger folk are ever thoughtless. [295] She gave bread in plenty and sparkling wine, and bathed me in the river, and gave me this raiment. In this, for all my sorrows, have I told thee the truth.”
- 14) Alcinoüs: “Stranger, verily my daughter was not minded aright in this, [300] that she did not bring thee to [our house](#) with her maidens. Yet it was to her first that thou didst make thy prayer.”
- Odysseus: “Prince, rebuke not for this, I pray thee, thy blameless daughter. She did indeed bid me follow with her maidens, [305] but I would not for fear and shame, lest haply thy heart should darken with wrath as thou sawest it; for we are quick to anger, we tribes of men upon the earth.”
- 15) Alcinoüs: “Stranger, not such is the heart in my breast, [310] to be filled with wrath without a cause. Better is due measure in all things. I would, O father [Zeus](#), and [Athena](#) and [Apollo](#), that thou, so goodly a man, and like-minded with me, wouldst have my daughter to wife, and be called my son, and abide here; a house and possessions would I give thee, [315] if thou shouldst choose to remain, but against thy will shall no one of the [Phaeacians](#) keep thee; let not that be the will of father [Zeus](#).”
- 16) Alcinoüs: “But as for thy sending, that thou mayest know it surely, I appoint a time thereto, even the morrow. Then shalt thou lie down, overcome by sleep, and they shall row thee over the calm sea until thou comest [320] to thy country and thy house, or to whatsoever place thou wilt, aye though it be even far beyond [Euboea](#), which those of our people who saw it, when they carried fair-haired Rhadamanthus to visit [Tityus](#), the son of Gaea, say is the furthest of lands. [325] Thither they went, and without toil accomplished their journey, and on the selfsame day came back home. So shalt thou, too, know for thyself how far my ships are the best, and my youths at tossing the brine with the oar-blade.”