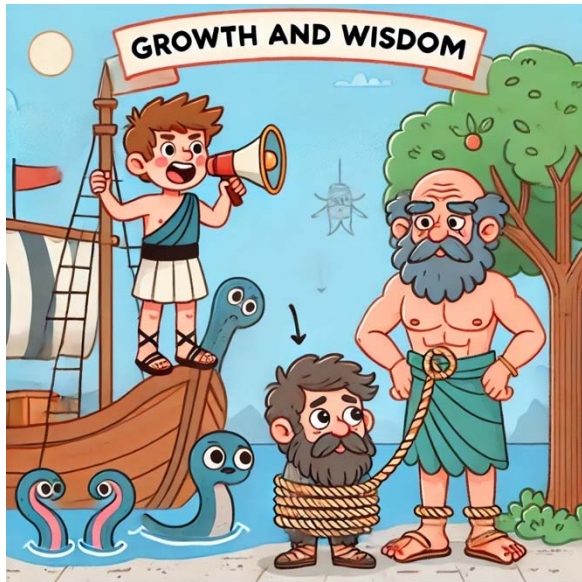


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Growth and Wisdom

At the start of *The Odyssey*, Odysseus is known as a brave and clever warrior. He is a great leader who fought in the Trojan War and is eager to return home to Ithaca. However, his journey is full of challenges that test his character. Over time, Odysseus learns important lessons about patience, humility, and wisdom.

In the beginning, Odysseus is proud and reckless. When he and his men escape from the Cyclops, Polyphemus,

Odysseus makes a mistake. Instead of staying quiet, he brags about his victory and tells the Cyclops his real name. This act of pride leads to disaster. Polyphemus calls upon his father, Poseidon, to curse Odysseus, making his journey home even longer and more dangerous. This moment shows that Odysseus must learn to control his pride.

As his journey continues, Odysseus faces many temptations and trials. On Circe's island, some of his men are turned into pigs because they do not listen to warnings. Later, Odysseus encounters the Sirens, creatures whose songs lure sailors to their deaths. However, this time, he listens to advice and makes a wise choice. He orders his men to tie him to the ship's mast so he can hear the Sirens without being drawn to them. This shows that Odysseus is learning to think before acting.

By the time Odysseus reaches Ithaca, he is more patient and cautious. Instead of rushing home and attacking the suitors, he listens to Athena's advice. He disguises himself as a beggar to observe the suitors and plan carefully. This is a big change from the Odysseus who once acted without thinking. His patience helps him reclaim his home and reunite with his family.

Throughout *The Odyssey*, Odysseus's character changes. He begins as a proud warrior but becomes a wiser, more thoughtful leader. His journey is not just about reaching Ithaca—it is about growing as a person. By learning from his mistakes, using wisdom, and controlling his pride, Odysseus proves that true strength comes not just from fighting but from patience and intelligence.