Unit 1 - Homer's *Odyssey*: Knowledge Organiser

Command Words

1. **Describe**: Write creatively, using metaphor, imagery, sensory language and adjectives.
2. **Express**: Write a clear point of view which is argued through supporting ideas.
3. **Summarise**: Identify key ideas expressed by a writer and state each one simply,
4. **Explain** precisely how a writer has conveyed an idea through words and choices they have made.
5. **Compare**: Identify clear similarities or differences between the ideas in two texts

Contextual Knowledge

6. The oral tradition is the name we give to stories that were told aloud but not written down.
7. The earliest written stories were epic poems.
8. *The Epic of Gilgamesh* is a story from Ancient Mesopotamia, thought to be the oldest surviving piece of written literature.
9. 'Ancient Greece' refers to Greece and the surrounding areas between 1200BCE and 600AD.
10. Homer was a travelling poet who is credited with writing *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.
11. *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* were written between 1200BCE and 700BCE.
12. Ancient Greeks believed in a race of gods who lived on Mount Olympus.
13. Trojan War was a mythological war and is described by Homer in *The Iliad*.
14. In *The Odyssey*, women are stereotyped, and it is normal for men to hold power.

Tier 3 Vocabulary

14. **Narrative structure**: the order that events in a story are placed in.
15. **Exposition**: the introduction of background information about events, settings or characters.
16. **Rising action**: a series of events that create suspense, interest and tension in a story.
17. **Climax**: the highest point of suspense, interest and tension in a story.
18. **Falling action**: the events that happen after the climax of a story.
19. **Resolution**: the end of a story, where all of the suspense, interest and tension is resolved.
20. **Cliffhanger**: when a story (or part of a story) ends without a resolution, leaving questions unanswered.
21. **Analepsis**: when a story flashes back in time to something that happened previously.
22. **Epic**: a long poem, usually written in verse (like a poem).
23. **Protagonist**: the main character in a story.
24. **Flaw**: a mistake made by a character, or an unpleasant quality in their personality.
25. **Hubris/hubristic**: excessive pride or dangerous overconfidence.
26. **Moral/morality**: the idea of right and wrong in human behaviour.
27. **Quest**: a journey to complete a mission or goal.
28. **Tension**: mental or emotional strain.

Plot Summary

29. Telemachus is Odysseus' son. His father, the king, has not yet returned from the Trojan War, and he is angry that 108 men have taken over his house, all hoping to marry his mother, Penelope, in his father's absence.
30. Odysseus and his men set sail on a journey from Troy back home to Ithaca, but they get caught in a storm. Odysseus trusts that the gods will keep them safe. They land on the first of many islands.
31. On a series of different islands, Odysseus and his men face many challenges: Polyphemus the cyclops captures them; Poseidon curses them and hounds Odysseus; Circe turns them into pigs; they navigate the deadly Siren Singers; Calypso traps them on her island.
32. In Ithaca, Penelope rejects all of her suitors, waiting for her husband's return. The suitors are disrespectful.
33. The gods intervene in Odysseus' fate. Athena begs Zeus to let him go home. Zeus eventually agrees.
34. Odysseus leaves Calypso's island, where he has been trapped, only for Poseidon to break his raft. He is saved by a sea nymph, and King Alcinous agrees to have his men row Odysseus back to Ithaca.
35. Telemachus tells his mother that Odysseus is dead, and so she must choose one of the suitors to marry. He suggests they have an archery contest to decide who will get to marry Penelope.
36. Odysseus enters the archery contest disguised as a beggar. He wins the contest, reveals his identity, and kills the suitors who treated his wife and home badly.
37. Penelope tests Odysseus before accepting that it is really him. He passes her test, and she is overjoyed.
38. Odysseus must make a sacrifice to Poseidon to create peace, so that his life can return to normal.

Unit 1 - Homer's *Odyssey*: Engagement Tasks

Quiz Questions

1. Which word describes a flashback in time within a story?
2. What is thought to be the oldest surviving piece of written literature?
3. Ancient Greeks believed that a race of gods lived where?
4. Who turns Odysseus and his men into pigs?
5. Which word describes excessive pride or dangerous overconfidence?
6. Who is the god of the sea, storms, earthquakes and horses?
7. What is the name of Odysseus' son?
8. Hades is the god of what?
9. Who begs Zeus to let Odysseus return home?
10. Where is 'home' for Odysseus?
11. What is the literary term for the main character in a story?
12. Which mythical war has Odysseus been fighting in?
13. Who is told that she must choose a suitor to marry?
14. What is the name of the cyclops that captures Odysseus and his men?
15. What is the term for a long poem, usually written in verse?

Fill in the blanks

The 'o_____ t_____' is the name we give to stories that were told aloud but not written down. The earliest written stories were e_____ p_____, and the oldest surviving example of this is *The Epic of G*_____ from Ancient M_____.

The Odyssey is an epic poem written by H_____, written between 1200BCE and _____BCE. It tells the story of O_____, as he goes on a q_____back to him homeland of I_____, where he is king. His journey is made challenging by a series of g_____, who throw obstacles in his way that he and his men must navigate: C_____ turns them into pigs; C_____ traps them on her island; P_____ curses them.

Eventually, Odysseus finds his way back to I_____, where he is reunited with his wife P_____.

Match the vocabulary to the correct definition

Narrative structure	a series of events that create suspense and tension.
Exposition	the events that happen after the climax of a story.
Rising action	the end of a story, where all of the suspense is resolved.
Climax	the order that events in a story are placed in.
Falling action	when a story ends without a resolution.
Resolution	the idea of right and wrong in human behaviour.
Cliffhanger	mental or emotional strain.
Flaw	the introduction of background information.
Moral	a mistake an unpleasant quality in a character's personality.
Tension	the highest point of suspense and tension.

Place the following events in chronological order according to plot

1. Athena begs Zeus to let Odysseus go home.
2. Odysseus and his men are caught in a storm.
3. Telemachus tells Penelope that she must choose a new husband.
4. Odysseus is saved by a sea nymph.
5. Odysseus must make a sacrifice to Poseidon to return to normality.
6. Penelope tests Odysseus to confirm that it is really him.
7. Circe turns Odysseus and his men into pigs.
8. Odysseus enters the archery competition and wins.
9. Telemachus feels frustrated by the behaviour of his mother's suitors.
10. Odysseus and his men are captured by a Cyclops.
11. King Alcinous has his men return Odysseus to Ithaca.
12. Penelope rejects all of her suitors.
13. Odysseus kills all of Penelope's suitors.
14. Odysseus fights in the Trojan War.
15. Poseidon breaks Odysseus' raft.