**English 11/12 Honors: Tolkien Name:**

**Mr. Fisher**

***The Odyssey* Study Guide #1: Book #1**

*Please answer the following questions in* ***complete sentences****.**If I feel the answers make no sense, I reserve the right to deny credit. Otherwise, a “check” equals a 10/10, a “check plus” equals a 12/10, and a “check minus” equals a 6/10. Skipped questions will lead to an automatic “check minus,” so I strongly encourage you to try to answer them all!*

1. How does Book #1 of *The Odyssey* begin (as in, what are the first few lines about)? Why do you think “Homer” chose to structure the beginning this way?
2. Why has Odysseus’s homecoming been delayed so long, and what is Athena now asking of her father, Zeus? What does this opening scene reveal about the relationship between the gods and men? Also, in general, how do the gods seem to behave?
3. What is the situation that Penelope and Telemachus face at the palace? Why do you think it has gotten so out of hand? What do you think they could have done to make the situation turn out better than it did?
4. What do you notice about the way Telemachus greets his guest? Who is his guest, and why has he (she) come? What message does “Homer” seem to convey to his readers about hospitality?
5. What tragic homecoming story do we hear of? How might it relate to the situation in Ithaca?
6. How does Telemachus show strength with Penelope? How does this then relate to the visit of Athena?