

Name:

Period:



The Odyssey Unit: PIE Paragraph #1 (Book 5, Calypso)

Instructions: Read the following two selections – an excerpt from Book 5 of the Odyssey, and the lyrics from Suzanne Vega’s song “Calypso” – and answer the following question using the PIE method:

*Why does Calypso, a goddess, allow Odysseus to leave her if she is in love with him and has the power to make him stay? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from **both** selections.*

Selection #1 – Book 5 of the Odyssey:

The strong god glittering left her as he spoke,
and now her ladyship, having given heed
to Zeus’s mandate, went to find Odysseus
in his stone seat to seaward – tear on tear
brimming in his eyes. The sweet days of his lifetime
were running out in anguish over his exile,
for long ago the nymph had ceased to please.
Though he fought shy of her and her desire,
he lay with her each night, for she compelled him.
But when day came he sat on the rocky shore
and broke his own heart groaning, with eyes wet
scanning the bare horizon of the sea.
Now she stood near him in her beauty, saying:

“O forlorn man, be still.
Here you need grieve no more; you need not feel
your life consumed here; I have pondered it,

and I shall help you go...”

Swiftly she turned and led him to her cave,
and they went in, the mortal and immortal.
He took the chair left empty now by Hermes,
where the divine Calypso placed before him
victuals and drink of men; then she sat down
facing Odysseus, while her serving maids
brought nectar and ambrosia to her side.
Then each one’s hands went out on each one’s feast
until they had their pleasure; and she said:

“Son of Laertes, versatile Odysseus,
after these years with me, you desire
your old home? Even so, I wish you well.
If you could see it all, before you go –
all the adversity you face at sea –

you would stay here, and guard this house, and be
immortal – though you wanted her forever,
that bride for whom you pine each day.
Can I be less desirable than she is?
Less interesting? Less beautiful? Can mortals
compare with goddesses in grace and form?”

To this the strategist Odysseus answered:

“My lady goddess, here is no cause for anger.
My quiet Penelope – how well I know –
would seem a shade before your majesty,
death and old age being unknown to you,
while she must die. Yet, it is true, each day
I long for home, long for the sight of home...”
(1208-9)

Selection #2 – “Calypso” by Suzanne Vega:

My name is Calypso
And I have lived alone
I live on an island
And I waken to the dawn
A long time ago
I watched him struggle with the sea
I knew that he was drowning
And I brought him into me
Now today
Come morning light
He sails away
After one last night
I let him go.

My name is Calypso
My garden overflows
Thick and wild and hidden
Is the sweetness there that grows
My hair it blows long
As I sing into the wind
My name is Calypso
And I have lived alone
I live on an island
I tell of nights
Where I could taste the salt on his skin

Salt of the waves
And of tears
And though he, pulled away
I kept him here for years
I let him go

My name is Calypso
I have let him go
In the dawn he sails away
To be gone forever more
And the waves will take him in again
But he’ll know their ways now
I will stand upon the shore
With a clean heart

And my song in the wind
The sand will sting my feet
And the sky will burn
It’s a lonely time ahead
I do not ask him to return
I let him go
I let him go



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Highlight or underline (preferably highlight) your point, illustrations, and explanations in different colors. Fill out the following color key:

= Point

= Illustration

= Explanation

