***The Odyssey* Book 11 (The Land of the Dead) Questions**

**Note:** Visualizing the imagery will help you understand and remember the opening of Book 11. Also remember that bad timing and bad location might cause discomfort, worry, and pain.

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**Background: Death and the Underworld –** The land of the dead was ruled by the god, Hades, who was also the god of the earth’s fertility. His kingdom was also called Hades, and it was divided into two regions. The first region, called Erebus, was where a person’s spirit (or psyche) passed at death. The second region was called Tartarus. It was separated from the land of the living by the river Styx. An old boatman named Charon transported the dead across the river to Hades. The land of the dead was also guarded by a three-headed dragon-tailed dog named Cerberus.

To know: Tiresius was the blind prophet and holy man of the Greek city of Thebes. He made several famous predictions and warnings in addition to his words to Odysseus. He predicted that Hercules would be a great hero. Predictions of wise men carry great weight. Tiresius’s predictions are likely to come to pass.

1. Why does Odysseus become afraid (Lines 10-16)?
2. Why is Odysseus shocked to see Elpenor? What has happened to Elpenor? What does the man ask Odysseus to do for him?
3. Who is Anticlea?
4. What does Tiresias mean in the following lines? Explain each.

*But anguish lies ahead; / the god who thunders on the land prepares it (79-80)*

*“One narrow strait may take you through his blows: / denial of yourself, restraint of shipmates” (83-84)*

1. What does Tiresias warn about Helios’s cattle?
2. What does Tiresias predict about Odysseus’s future?
3. After Odysseus kills the suitors, what should he do?

**Note: Make sure you understand Tiresias’s prophesy. Each group will present a summary of the lines 77-90, 91-104, and 105-116 so that we have a comprehensive idea as a class of what happens in this book (make notes for your presentation below).**