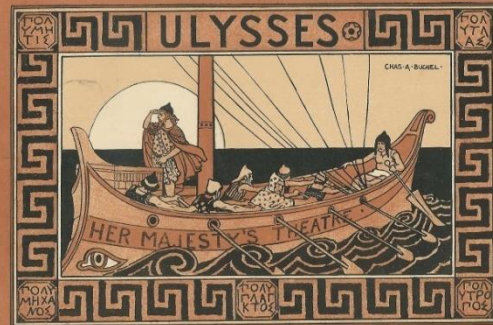


# ODYSSEUS: THE POLYTROPOS HERO

*Teaching the Odyssey at GCSE and A  
Level for Classical Civilisation*



# Epithets of Odysseus Alone

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| ▣ Much-praised           | polyainos        |
| ▣ Very crafty            | polykerdes       |
| ▣ Of grievous homecoming | polykedes nostos |
| ▣ Of many stratagems     | polymechanos     |
| ▣ Much-enduring/daring   | polytlas         |
| ▣ Versatile, complex,    | polytropos       |

# Other Epithets

- ▣ Master mariner
- ▣ Hero
- ▣ Great-hearted
- ▣ Wise
- ▣ City-sacker
- ▣ Kingly
- ▣ Of many sorrows
- ▣ Much prayed for

# What Kind of Hero?





# Navigator



# Barbarian-tamer





# Lesson-Learner



# Favourite of the Cleverest Goddess





# Athlete and discus-thrower



# Carpenter



# Hunter (on Circe's Island)

As the stag came from the water I struck him on the spine with my bronze-spear, in the centre of his back, and it pierced right through, so he fell in the dust with a groan, and his spirit passed. Then I planted my foot on his carcass, drew the bronze spear from the wound, and laid it on the ground while I gathered willow shoots then wove a rope, six foot long, by splicing them together end to end. Next I tied the great creature's feet together, and carried him down to the black ship on my back, using my spear to lean on, since he was too large to sling over my shoulder and steady with my hand.



# Swimmer



# Boxer: Fight with Irus



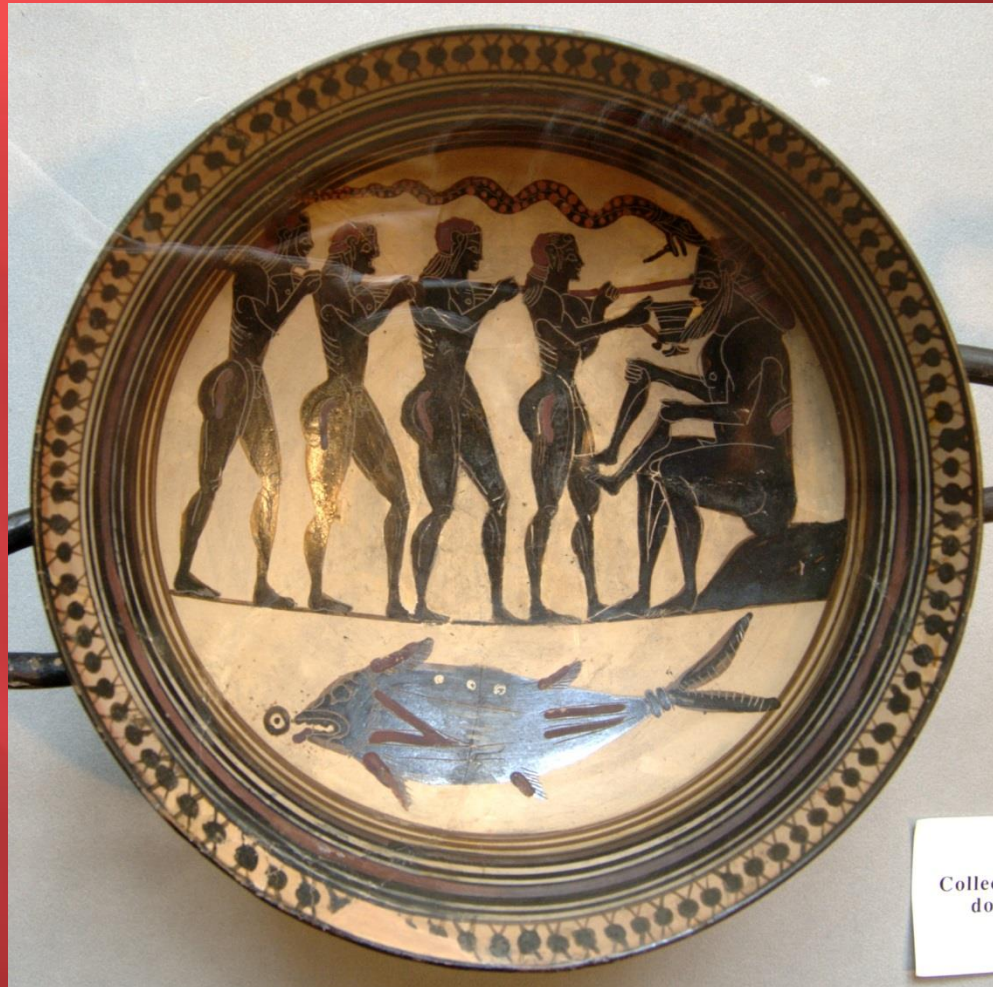


# Archer





# Trickster



# Desired by Calypso and Nausicaa

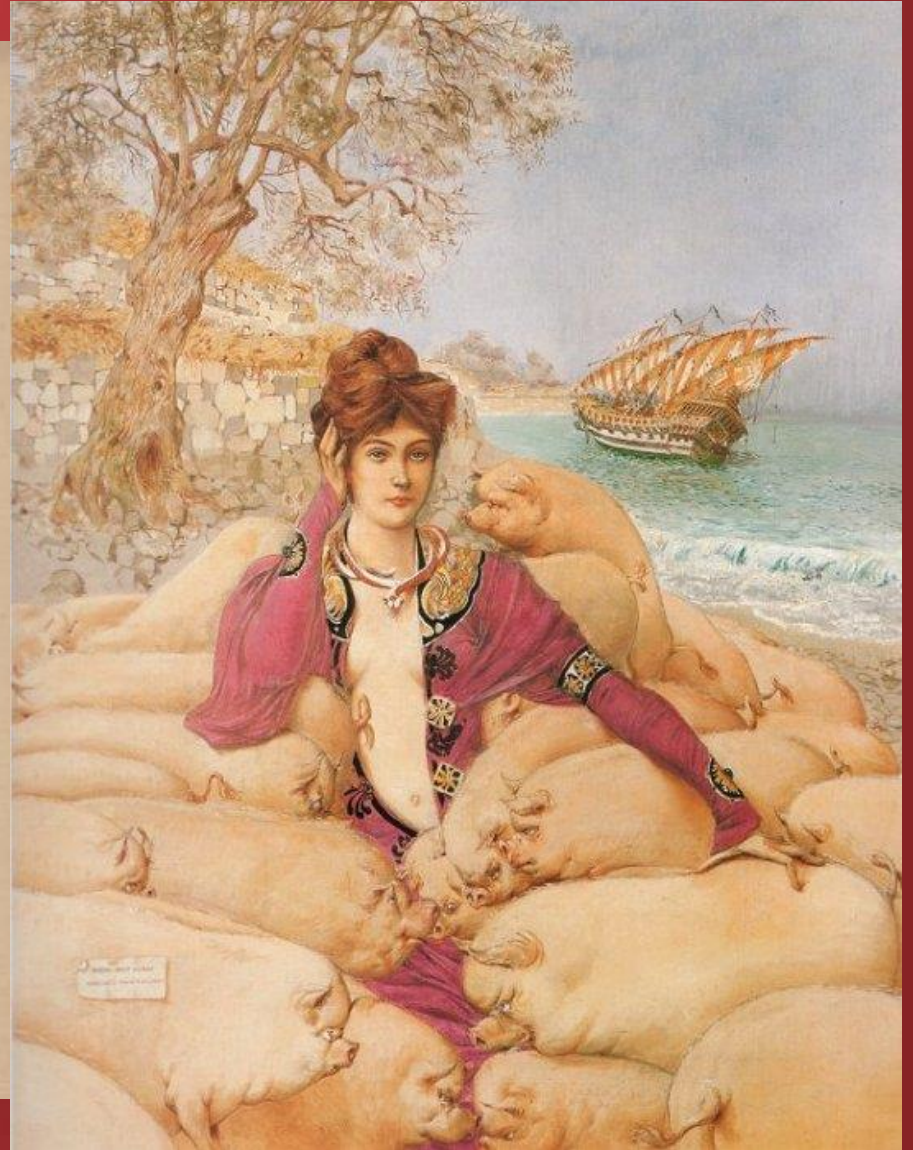




# Witch-Tamer



The unhappy Greeks turned into Swine.





# Investigative Scientist



# Storyteller and Autobiographer





# Visitor to the Land of the Dead





# Philosopher



# Employer and Pet-Owner





Not so great for the maids...



# Father?





# Husband?



# Son of an Orchard-Keeper



Drawn by J. H. P. H. H. H.

Engraved by J. H. P. H. H. H.





# The Father of all Heroes; the Mother of all Stories

- ▣ Quest Hero
- ▣ Action Hero
- ▣ Disaster Movie Hero
- ▣ Revenge Hero
- ▣ Travelogue “Road Movie” Hero
- ▣ Episodic Hero with Superpowers
- ▣ Romantic Hero
- ▣ Proto-Sci-Fi-Hero
- ▣ Initiation Hero (or is that Telemachus?)

So who would *you* cast as  
Odysseus?

