**The Odyssey**

3 reasons why The Odyssey is so famous:

- Written . (Previous myths were spoken) .

- Historical . (Based on a real war) .

- Covers most aspects of people (intelligence, thinking, bravery, a journey etc) . The Ultimate Heroic journey .

Also it was a journey . Heroic journey .

The Trojan War . Troy was the location of the real war .

He built the Trojan Horse as a ‘gift’.

“The **Trojan horse** is briefly **mentioned** in the seventh book of the Odyssey epic. The passage says that the hero Odysseus and a group of Greek soldiers hid in the **Trojan horse** in order to launch a surprise attack on the Trojans,” Aslan said. ... **Homer**, however, also uses the symbol of the **horse** in a metaphorical way.

Part 1 - Win the war (did take years)

Part 2 - Sail home, should have taken weeks (it ends up taking 10-20 years)

1 They drink and eat too much, fall asleep. They get attacked, 70 get killed. Moral - don’t underestimate the enemy.

2 Hurricane blows them off course, and they end up on *The Island of the Lotus Eaters*. It shows over indulgence. They lacked discipline. Odysseus did not take any. Power of self control.

3 Cyclops. Poseidon’s son. They find a cave of food, and wine. They consume a lot but get trapped. Intelligence is a key factor again in the hero. He never gave up hope. He got the Cyclops drunk, hurt his one eye and hid underneath sheep to escape before saying his name is ‘no man’ or ‘nobody’. Before leaving he does say ‘my name is Odysseus.’ It turns out to be a mistake. Cyclops’s father is Posiedon, who he tells.

A giant storm is sent.

4 They get blown to the island of King Aeolia. Here Odysseus is given a bag of wind. It is a very special gift, control of the weather. They travel for 10 days and get within touching distance of their home (Ithica) but one man opens the bag and releases the power of wind. They get blown back to Aeolia. Kind Aeolia says they are clearly cursed and wants nothing more to do with them.

5 They get attacked by cannibals next. 100 men are killed and all but one boat is destroyed.

6 Circe. The men get addicted to sex on the island. Odysseus is given ‘moly’ by Hermes (the messenger god) to prevent getting cursed by Circe when he rescues the men. However he still has an affair with her for a year. Crucially she gives him information that he can break Poseidon’s curse by seeking out Tiresias…in The Underworld.

7 The Underworld. Tiresias says ‘don’t eat the cattle.’

8 Island of the Sirens. He uses intelligence but is also determined to be the first person to hear their voices. He plugs his mens’ ears with wax.

9 He must travel between rocks and a sea monster (“Scylla”) and giant whirlpool. He leaves the rocks and faces the monster. In doing so he sacrifices many men, but it is a necessary evil in order to survive.

10 Island with the cattle. The god Helios is the owner of the cattle that the men take (Odysseus does not…he was warned) and Helios tells Zeus. All of the men are killed apart from Odysseus. His boat is also destroyed.

11 Nymph Island. “Calypso Island”. He stays 7 years. She is a god. He decides to move on but she tries to persuade him to stay by becoming a god. HE REJECTS IT. He is determined to fulfill his duty of a man. He has chosen the life of a man OVER the life of a god. He builds a raft with his own hands and leaves.

12 Ithica. 20 years have passed. He fires an arrow through a target into the apple to win Penelope. She confirms it is him by trying to trick him about their bed which cannot be moved. He answers correctly that the bed cannot be moved. They are back together after over 20 years of being apart. He is the King of Ithica again.

Determined - Never gives up

Resilient – He can improvise

Crafty – He is very clever

Intelligent – he is always using his brain

Brave – he overcomes fear

Curious – wants to know (Siren’s voice)

Dominant – sexually powerful

Strong-minded – can say no

Skilled – with weapons

Powerful - Fights men to the death

Pragmatic – the ends justifies the means (Scylla)

Crafting – Skilled with his hands

Striving – trying to improve