

MYTHOLOGY & LITERATURE:

ACTIVITY: CAUSE & EFFECT

Cause and Effect is a concept often used in literature. It means that one action puts another action in motion by causing it to happen. This happens several times in the *Odyssey* with both positive and negative effects. Match the "CAUSE" from the left hand column with the "effect" in the right hand column by drawing a line to connect the two.

CAUSE

Athena tells Telemachus he must search for news of his father, Odysseus.

Odysseus blinds Polyphemus and escapes when Polyphemus tells his father what has happened.

Odysseus' sailors take the offerings of Lotus from the Lotus-Eaters and eat the leaves as well.

Aeolus gives Odysseus a bag of wind and orders him not to open it for 10 days, but while Odysseus is asleep, one of his men disobeys and releases the wind.

Odysseus agrees to live with Circe on her island for a year.

Sirens attempt to lure sailors to them with their beautiful songs.

The sailors disregard Tiresias' warning and eat the Cattle of the Sun.

EFFECT

• Zeus sends a great storm which kills all of Odysseus' men and strands him on an island with Calypso for seven years.

• The sailors are blown off-course and back the way they came.

• The sailors are turned from pigs back to their human form.

• Telemachus sets sail for Sparta to speak with Menelaus.

• Poseidon is angered and curses Odysseus' voyage back home.

• The sailors are euphoric and forget all about wanting to journey back to their homes.

• When they succeed, ships are tossed onto ragged rocks and the sailors usually perish.

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CAUSE AND EFFECT IS A CONCEPT OFTEN USED IN LITERATURE. IT MEANS THAT ONE ACTION PUTS ANOTHER ACTION IN MOTION BY CAUSING IT TO HAPPEN. THIS HAPPENS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE ODYSSEY WITH BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS. MATCH THE "CAUSE" FROM THE LEFT HAND COLUMN WITH THE "EFFECT" IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN BY DRAWING A LINE TO CONNECT THE TWO.

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ANSWER KEY