

**The *Odyssey*, Part 1** by Homer

**Reading Strategy: Reading in Sentences**

Like most epic poetry, the *Odyssey* is written in verse. If you **read in sentences** rather than in lines, you will better understand Homer's epic tale. Ignore line breaks and read the words as you would a novel or newspaper article, stopping only at natural breaks such as commas, dashes, semicolons, or periods.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the lines from the *Odyssey* and respond to the items that follow.

Dear friends,  
more than one man, or two should know those  
things  
Circe foresaw for us and shared with me,  
so let me tell her forecast: then we die  
with our eyes open, if we are going to die,  
690 or know what death we baffle if we can.  
Sirens weaving a haunting song over the sea  
we are to shun, she said, and their green shore  
all sweet with clover; yet she urged that I  
alone should listen to their song. Therefore  
695 you are to tie me up, tight as a splint,  
erect along the mast, lashed to the mast,  
and if I shout and beg to be untied,  
take more turns of the rope to muffle me. [ll. 686–698]

1. Copy Circe's warning, beginning with line 691 and ending at the word *clover* in line 693, as a single sentence.
2. Rephrase lines 686–690 in your own words.
3. Write Odysseus' words in lines 695–698 as a numbered set of directions.