***The Odyssey* Name:**

**Close Reading – Scylla and Charybdis Date:**

**DIRECTIONS: Read and annotate the following passage from Book 12: Sirens, Scylla and Charybdis. Annotate for Odysseus’ characterization here.**

***Remember annotations are not just underlines, but underlines or highlights with commentary in the margins****.*

Well, I walked up and down from bow to stern,

trying to put heart into them, standing over

every oarsman, saying gently,

‘Friends,

have we never been in danger before this?

145 More fearsome, is it now, than when the Cyclops

penned us in his cave? What power he had!

Did I not keep my nerve, and use my wits

to find a way out for us?

Now I say

by hook or crook this peril too shall be

150 something that we remember.

Heads up, lads!

We must obey the orders as I give them.

Get the oarshafts in your hands, and lay back

hard on your benches; hit these breaking seas.

Zeus help us pull away before we founder\*. \***Founder:** sink

155 You at the tiller, listen, and take in

all that I say—the rudders are your duty;

keep her out of the combers\* and the smoke; \***Combers**: breaking waves

steer for that headland; watch the drift, or we

fetch up in the smother, and you drown us.’

160 That was all, and it brought them round to action.

But as I sent them on toward Scylla, I

told them nothing, as they could do nothing.

They would have dropped their oars again, in panic,

to roll for cover under the decking. Circe’s

165 bidding against arms had slipped my mind,

so I tied on my cuirass and took up

two heavy spears, then made my way along

to the foredeck—thinking to see her first from there,

the monster of the gray rock, harboring

170 torment for my friends. I strained my eyes

upon that cliffside veiled in cloud, but nowhere

could I catch sight of her.