**Name: Date: Period:**

**“Ithaka” Poetry Analysis Questions**

**Directions: After reading and annotating “Ithaka,” answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use details and evidence from the poem to support your responses. Two points each**

1. Who do you believe the poet/narrator is addressing? How do you know?

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1. What three specific dangers will this traveler encounter along his journey?

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1. What advice does the poet offer in regard to these dangers? **Be specific.**

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1. What does the poet/narrator hope the traveler will do on his way back to “Ithaka?”

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1. Why does the poet/narrator say “But don’t hurry the journey at all.”

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1. The poet/narrator tells the traveler that if having arrived home, he finds Ithaka to be a poor place, he has not been deceived. Why not? What has he learned?

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1. Although the island of Ithaka will always be associated with the homeland of Odysseus, in this poem, Cavafy uses the place name in an additional sense. What message is Cavafy *really* delivering to the reader?

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1. What examples of *repetition* can you find in the poem? List two examples. Why do you believe Cavafy uses repetition in this poem?

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1. What is the **mood** of this poem? How do you feel after reading this poem? Explain. You should have evidence from the text in this answer. **Mood is the feeling created in the reader.** This feeling is the result of both the tone and author’s language about the subject matter. What feelings or emotions do you experience after reading the poem?

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****Now, read the following passage from Book 9 of *The Odyssey*. In this section, Odysseus describes his homeland**. Answer the questions below **in complete sentences**:

*The Odyssey* (9:212:23-32)

“Sunny Ithaca is my home. Atop her stands our seamark,

Mount Neriton’s leafy ridges shimmering in the wind.

Around her a ring of islands circle side-by-side,

Dulichion, Same, wooded Zacynthus too, but mine

lies low and away, the furthest out to sea,

rearing into the western dusk

while the others face the east and breaking day.

Mine is a rugged land but good for raising sons—

and I myself, I know no sweeter sight on earth

than a man’s own native country.”

1. What do the poem and the passage teach the reader about Ithaca? Use details and evidence from both works to support your analysis.

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1. What types of figurative language and/or literary devices are used in the poem? In the passage? **Provide specific examples.**

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1. Why is this description important for the reader before beginning a reading of *The Odyssey*?

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