

13. **Achaeans** (ə kē' ənz) *n.*  
Greeks; here, Odysseus'  
men.

**Reading Skill**  
**Historical and Cultural**  
**Context** What beliefs  
and values are reflected  
in lines 65–69?

14. **lee** (lē) *n.* area sheltered  
from the wind.

**Literary Analysis**  
**Epic Hero** What words  
in line 82 remind you  
that this part is a flash-  
back?

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## The Lotus-Eaters

70 Now Zeus the lord of cloud roused in the north  
a storm against the ships, and driving veils  
of squall moved down like night on land and sea.  
The bows went plunging at the gust; sails  
cracked and lashed out strips in the big wind.  
75 We saw death in that fury, dropped the yards,  
unshipped the oars, and pulled for the nearest lee:<sup>14</sup>  
then two long days and nights we lay offshore  
worn out and sick at heart, tasting our grief,  
until a third Dawn came with ringlets shining.  
80 Then we put up our masts, hauled sail, and rested,  
letting the steersmen and the breeze take over.

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85 | I might have made it safely home, that time,  
but as I came round Malea the current  
took me out to sea, and from the north  
a fresh gale drove me on, past Cythera.  
Nine days I drifted on the teeming sea  
before dangerous high winds. Upon the tenth

we came to the coastline of the Lotus-Eaters,  
who live upon that flower. We landed there  
to take on water. All ships' companies  
mustered alongside for the mid-day meal.  
90 Then I sent out two picked men and a runner  
to learn what race of men that land sustained.  
They fell in, soon enough, with Lotus-Eaters,  
who showed no will to do us harm, only  
95 offering the sweet Lotus to our friends—  
but those who ate this honeyed plant, the Lotus,  
never cared to report, nor to return:  
they longed to stay forever, browsing on  
that native bloom, forgetful of their homeland.  
100 I drove them, all three wailing, to the ships,  
tied them down under their rowing benches,  
and called the rest: 'All hands aboard;  
come, clear the beach and no one taste  
9 the Lotus, or you lose your hope of home.'  
105 Filing in to their places by the rowlocks  
my oarsmen dipped their long oars in the surf,  
and we moved out again on our sea faring.

**Literary Analysis**

**Epic Hero** Which characteristics of an epic hero does Odysseus show in this episode?