The Cattle of the Sun: Reading Book 12 of The Odyssey On Your Own

Directions: Read Book 12 of The Odyssey (translated by Robert Fagles) on your own. As you read, take notes in your notebook about things that you notice. Then answer the following questions on this worksheet.

Notes: The Odyssey Book 12
Things you might notice or want to take notes on:
• unfamiliar words you think you want to look up later
• character names you may want to look up
• write words or phrases to help you summarize the storyline
• draw a plot line or story map to help you remember what happens
• write down any epic conventions you notice (maybe a Homeric epithet or an epic simile)

Questions:
1. Why did Odysseus and his crew return to Circe's island?

2. What advice does Circe give Odysseus about the Sirens?

3. What does Scylla look like and where does she live? What does Charybdis do three times a day? What advice does Circe give Odysseus about Scylla and Charybdis?

4. What advice does Circe give about eating the Sun God's cattle?

5. How did Odysseus prevent his crew from hearing the Sirens?

6. Why doesn't Odysseus tell his crew about Scylla?

7. Why does the crew break their oaths about not eating the cattle of the Sun God?

8. What happened to the crew after they left the island of the Sun God?

9. What happened to Odysseus after the island of the Sun God? Where did he end up?

On the back of this worksheet, summarize the storyline in Book 12.