“The Odyssey” by Homer
Translated by Robert Fagles

Name ________________________________
**Homework and Reading Guide**

*All assignments must be handwritten.*

*All assignments are due in class on the date listed.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12/11</strong></td>
<td><strong>Classwork</strong>: Introduction to <em>The Odyssey</em></td>
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| **12/12** | **Classwork**: Introduction to *The Odyssey*, continued  
- Classwork: Read and highlight the introductory context notes (20 points) |
| **12/14** | **Book I** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
- **Homework**: Workbook questions (15 points) |
| **12/15** | **Book II** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
- **Homework**: Workbook questions (10 points)  
- **Classwork**: Read and highlight the summaries of Books III and IV (5 points) |
| **12/18** | **Book V** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
**Homework**: Workbook questions (10 points) |
| **12/19** | **Book VI** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
- **Homework**: Workbook questions (5 points)  
- **Classwork**: Read and highlight the summaries of Books VII and VIII (5 points) |
| **12/20** | **Book IX** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
- **Homework**: Workbook questions (10 points) |
| **12/21** | **Book X** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
- **Homework**: Workbook pages (10 points) |
| **12/22** | - Film Study (**Classwork**)  
**Happy Holidays!** |
| **1/2** | - Film Study (**Classwork**) |
| **1/3** | **Book XI** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
- **Homework**: Workbook pages (10 points) |
| **1/4** | **Book XII** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
- **Homework**: Workbook pages (15 points) |
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<th>Task</th>
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| 1/5, 1/8 and 1/9 | - **Classwork**: Read and highlight the summaries of Books XIII – XVIII (10 points)  
                 - **Classwork**: Characterization of Odysseus / Critical Analysis of Character – “Is Odysseus a Good Leader?”  
                                 - Planning Sheets (10 points)  
                                 - Final Draft (40 points)  |
| 1/10       | **Book XIX** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
                 - **Homework**: Workbook page (5 points)  
                 - **Classwork**: Read and highlight the summary of Book XX (5 points)  |
| 1/11       | **Books XXI, XXII** Mini Quiz (10 points)  
                 - **Homework**: Workbook pages (10 points)  
                 - **Classwork**: Read and highlight the summaries of Books XXIII – XXIV (5 points)  |
| 1/12       | - **Film Study** (Classwork)  |
| 1/16       | **Vocabulary Quiz** (25 points)  
                 - Vocabulary Assignment Due (51 points)  |
| 1/16 and 1/17 | - Review for Midterm Exam (Classwork)  |
| 1/19       | - Completed Workbook Collected (150 points total, does not include Odysseus Mini-Essay)  |
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to one of the greatest journeys of all time!

Some three thousand years ago, there came into being two great poems, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. They tell of the history, mythology and adventures of the Trojan War and its aftermath. They weave historical fact with mythology.

We call their author Homer, but we don’t know if the poet was one man, or several men. Perhaps one supreme poet brought together all the tales of Odysseus and his adventures. Homer may, in fact, have been a wandering blind minstrel. His poems were sung to the accompaniment of the lyre.

In these years, poetry was not written; it was recited and performed, passed down from generation to generation. It was eventually written in the Greek language, and then translated into every language in the world. These epic poems have influenced all of civilization.

*The Odyssey* is a great poem. Its greatness lies partly in its beauty of verse and in its imagery. But perhaps its greatest merit lies in its creative imagination and beauty and nobility of thought.

While *The Odyssey* is a great poem, it is also the first great novel. We follow the adventures of Odysseus, his wife Penelope and his son Telemachus, just as we would follow the characters of a modern novel. The plot moves along steadily and ends with peace and good fortune.
The Odyssey is a sequel to The Iliad, which tells of one great crisis in the Trojan War: the quarrel between Agamemnon and the greatest Greek warrior, Achilles. Achilles was angry because Agamemnon had taken one of his captives, so he shut himself up in a tent, leaving the Greeks to fight without him. Later on, Achilles was slain when an arrow struck his only vulnerable spot, his ankle. The war dragged on. At last, shrewd Odysseus thought of a plan. He told the Greeks to build a great wooden horse.

In this, they hid armed men, and then sailed off, leaving the horse as a token of surrender. The Trojans rejoiced, and thinking the horse was an offering to Athena, they brought it into their city. That night, while the Trojans lay drunk and sleeping, the armed Greeks climbed out of the horse and opened the gates of the city to their comrades. Together, the Greek warriors plundered the city and left it in ruin. Odysseus became a hero.

When Troy was taken, the war was over, and the Greeks sailed away. They were met with various fortunes. Many were welcomed as kings and heroes. But Odysseus was not so lucky. The sea god Poseidon was angry with Odysseus for blinding and tricking his son, Polyphemus the Cyclops. To punish Odysseus, Poseidon tossed his ship and crew all over the sea in winds and storms. It was many years before Odysseus returned home to Ithaca. The Odyssey is the story of these years: Odysseus lost at sea, and Penelope and Telemachus waiting for his return to Ithaca.
In his absence, various suitors have been hanging about Odysseus’ palace, hoping to wed Penelope. They linger around because they hope the beautiful and wealthy Penelope will choose one of them to be her new husband. Meanwhile, they gamble, drink, eat, dance, make a mess and cause trouble. These rude suitors are not kicked out of the house because the ancient Greeks had a strict code of hospitality. Strangers and guests were expected to be fed and entertained.

No one in Ithaca knows if Odysseus is still alive or whether he will ever return. Book One opens prior to his return, when Odysseus is with the nymph Calypso on her island, where he has been trapped for many years.

The Gods and Goddesses of ancient Greece were fond of meeting at Zeus’ table on Mount Olympus to gossip. They often interacted with humans and interfered in the course of events. The Gods discuss the tabloid stories of humans, including the tale of Orestes, the only son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra. Agamemnon is a hero of the Trojan War. When he returns to his home of Argos, his wife Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus kill him. Orestes avenges his father’s murder by killing his mother and her lover. As you read The Odyssey, think about what this story foreshadows and how this story acts as a mirror and a foil for the story of Telemachus, Penelope, and Odysseus.

It is at this meeting that the tale of The Odyssey begins...

**STRUCTURE of “THE ODYSSEY”**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>Present-Time</td>
<td>Mt. Olympus, Ithaca, and Telemachus’ journey to discover news of his father</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Present-Time</td>
<td>Odysseus travels to the land of the Phaeacians</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Flashback</td>
<td>Odysseus tells of his journeys and adventures</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-16</td>
<td>Present-Time</td>
<td>Odysseus returns to Ithaca and is reunited with Telemachus</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-20</td>
<td>Present-Time</td>
<td>Disguised as a beggar, Odysseus meets the suitors and Penelope</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-24</td>
<td>Present-Time</td>
<td>Odysseus wins the bow contest, kills the suitors, and reveals himself to Penelope</td>
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EPIC

- The Odyssey is an epic: a long, narrative poem about the deeds of gods or heroes who embody the values of the culture of which they are a part. The oldest epics were transmitted orally, and The Odyssey has traits that suggest that it has roots in this tradition.
- An epic focuses on the adventures and conflicts of an epic hero.
  - The epic hero is an extraordinary man: noble, strong, intelligent, and skillful in war. He has larger-than-life powers. He often has a divine mission to accomplish and is protected by the gods. He usually visits the underworld.
  - Achilles fulfills this role in The Iliad; Odysseus in The Odyssey. Epic heroes are not perfect. Achilles is stubbornly proud over a long period of time; Odysseus has lapses in judgment. Nevertheless, epic heroes always seem to have an abundance of courage, a fighting spirit that endears them both to the reader (or listener) and the gods.
- An epic usually begins “in medias res” (a Latin term meaning “in the middle”). The story begins at a critical point in the middle of the action; the events that happened before the opening are introduced later in a flashback.
- The narrator of an epic traditionally calls an invocation to the Muses. Nine goddesses inspired men to create their arts. Calliope is the Muse of epic poetry. Homer calls upon the Muses at the very beginning of the story to help inspire him to tell the tale.
- An epic includes epic similes. They similes use “like” or “as” for comparison, but are much longer than an ordinary simile; in fact, they make last for pages!

IDEAS and VALUES of ANCIENT GREEK CULTURE

Reading the Odyssey can provide a window into the lifestyles of the ancient Greeks.

- Hospitality to Strangers and the Exchange of Gifts
  - Known by the Greek term Xenia, “guest-friendship” is shown by the exchange of gifts, goods, and services between individuals from different places. It involves the correct treatment of strangers and the duties of hospitality.
- Reputation
  - Known by the Greek term Kleos, the ancient Greeks were concerned with how people will be remembered after death. A noble kleos is the hero’s consolation for dying. The value-system of the Ancient Greeks put more emphasis on successful performance and reputation in the eyes of others than on an inner-consciousness of right and wrong.
- Reverence for the Gods
  - Notice the many examples of rituals and prayer to respect the many gods and goddesses.
Courage
Love of Family and Home
Success of Cleverness over Brute Force
Obedience to Orders
Anthropomorphism
  o assigning human characteristics to the gods
Direct Influence of Gods in the Lives of Humans
The Calling of Assemblies
  o Gods and humans were fond of meetings at which important decisions are made. Remember that ancient Greece is the beginning of democracy!

EPITHETS

Homer repeatedly describes many of his characters or objects in his story with the same phrase. This phrase is called an epithet. Epithets are common epic elements which allow the reader to easily identify the character or object. Epithets stress a quality of what they are describing. The same character often is given several different epithets. The epithet was used by oral poets to help them "catch their breath" whenever they mentioned a major figure or described something familiar and recurring. The epithets were not used to illustrate a specific aspect of the figure at the moment he (she) was being spoken of, but were chosen to fit the meter of the line. Many translators, however, like to fit the epithet to an aspect of the character that is relevant to the moment.

Examples of epithets used in the Odyssey include the following:
  • "The great tactician" - This term creates the image of Odysseus as being intelligent, and probably comes from his being the initiator of the idea for the "Trojan horse."
  • "The clear-eyed goddess" - This helps the reader imagine that Athena is alert, wise and farseeing.

Here are some more epithets:
  • "the man of twists and turns" (Odysseus)
  • "wine-dark sea"
  • "the bewitching nymph" (Calypso)
  • "son of Cronos" (Zeus)
  • "who marshals the thunderheads" (Zeus)
  • "cool-headed" (Telemachus)
  • "lord of the war cry" (Menelaus)
INTERNET CONNECTIONS

- Want to know more about a certain aspect of the tale?
- Having trouble understanding what you read?
- Would images help you to better contextualize the stories?

The Internet offers an amazing array of websites just waiting to be explored! Feel free to explore on your own, but here are a few recommended sites:

An interview on PBS NewsHour with Fagles discussing the text and his translation.

http://www.leasttern.com/HighSchool/odyssey/Odyssey2.html
An excellent site to enhance your reading, it offers helpful hints, questions, and vocabulary.

http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/Eng9/homer.html
A great source for PowerPoint presentations, worksheets, quizzes, interactive games, and introductory notes.

http://www.umich.edu/~homeros/Representations%20of%20Homer's%20Ideas/Paintings/Paintings.htm
This website is titled “A Visual Odyssey,” and presents the tales of the epic through famous paintings. An ideal way for the visual learner to absorb the story.

A FINAL NOTE

These guided reading worksheets are meant to help you interact with this beautiful but complicated text. Try reading through a few pages on your own before answering the questions. It’s okay if you get “lost” or don’t understand: this is challenging material. Be patient, and stay focused, and try to gather as much information as you can. You may have to re-read stanzas for clarity. This does require a commitment on your part. You must commit time and energy to fully appreciate this incredible tale. But here’s the good news: It gets easier. You will probably find yourself reading easier and more fluently as you go along. And don’t forget that this is an exciting epic full of love, conflict, and adventure. Make sure you take the time to daydream a little and spark your imagination as you enjoy this classic story.
“The Odyssey” by Homer, translated by Robert Fagles

All numbers indicate line numbers in the poem—refer to them when answering the questions.

Book One: Athena Inspires the Prince

Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns
Driven time and again off course, once he had plundered
The hallowed heights of Troy. (1-3)

The Muses are goddesses of inspiration. They are daughters of ______________________. (11)
Who is “me”? __________________________________________________________________
Who is “the man of twists and turns”? _________________________________

5-10: Although Odysseus travels for many years on the “open sea / fighting to save his life and bring his comrades home,” he ultimately can’t save his crew. Why not?

16-18: Who holds Odysseus back from going home? Why?

22-23: Which god does not take pity on Odysseus?

34-52: The story of Aegisthus was summarized earlier in this workbook. What point does Zeus hope to make by sharing the story with the assembly of gods?

53-76: What does Athena ask of Zeus?

77-80: How does Zeus feel about Odysseus?

81-84: Why is Poseidon upset with Odysseus?
96-112: What is Athena’s plan?

121-123: How does she enter Ithaca without being recognized as a goddess?

124-131: Describe the scene Athena witnesses when she gets to Ithaca.

132-168: Describe how Telemachus treats the new guest.

228-231: What information does she share with Telemachus regarding his father, Odysseus?

232-237: What prophecy does Athena make?

312-351: What advice does Athena give Telemachus? At one point in these lines, Athena mentions Orestes. Why? How could Orestes be considered a foil to Telemachus?

367-373: How does Telemachus feel after Athena leaves? What does he know about his encounter with “Mantes”? 
379: When we first meet Penelope, how is she described?

Many characters are introduced by their paternal lineage (son/daughter of father’s name). For example, Penelope is introduced as “Icarius’ daughter” and Odysseus is often referred to as the “son of Laertes.” What does this tell us about the culture of the time?

379-419: What happens between Telemachus and Penelope in this scene? What might this scene tell us about gender roles in Ancient Greece?

440-506: Describe the following characters and their roles in the story: Antinous, Eurymachus, Eurycleia.
Book Two: Telemachus Sets Sail

48-88: Telemachus calls the island to assembly. What does he claim are his troubles? How does he describe the suitors? What does he say to the suitors?

89-122: Penelope tricks the suitors. Explain the deception.

125-126: What does Antinous want Telemachus to do?

154-160: What is Telemachus’ response to Antinous?

164-215: How does Zeus respond to the assembly? Who is Halitherses, and what is his response to the situation? How does Eurymachus respond?
232-249: What does Telemachus ask for, and what does he plan to do?

250-271: How does Mentor describe Odysseus? Why does Mentor not “grudge” the suitors? Why is his “fury” roused at the rest of the assembly?

300-477: How does Athena intervene on behalf of Telemachus? What is Eurycleia’s advice to Telemachus?
Note to Student:
We do not read every “book” of this epic tale in class; summaries will be provided for these books instead. These summaries will be italicized. You will be responsible for the information shared in these summaries, and the important information in them must be underlined or highlighted.

Book Three: King Nestor Remembers

As Telemachus and Athena (still disguised as Mentor) arrive at Pylos, they come upon a huge ceremony in which the citizens offer bulls in sacrifice to Poseidon. Telemachus feels awkward and embarrassed by his youth and inexperience, but under Athena/Mentor’s guidance, he makes a favorable impression on King Nestor, oldest of the Greek chieftains. Nestor’s situation and, indeed, the whole state of affairs in Pylos stand in stark contrast to Odysseus’ and Ithaca. Through these experiences in Pylos and with Athena’s guidance, Telemachus learns how to comport himself as the son and heir to a great king. Nestor talks of the old days and significantly elaborates on the story of Agamemnon’s murder. He has little to offer regarding Odysseus, having last seen Ithaca’s king shortly after the victory at Troy, but he suggests that Telemachus and Nestor’s son Pisistratus proceed to Sparta to visit Menelaus, Agamemnon’s brother, who may be of more help to the guests. Athena returns to the ship to instruct the crew before she leaves on other errands. After another sacrificial feast, Nestor provides a chariot and team of steeds for the two princes’ journey to Sparta.

Book Four: The King and Queen of Sparta

When they arrive at Sparta, Telemachus and Pisistratus are warmly welcomed. Telemachus is moved to tears by Menelaus’ recollections of his friend Odysseus. The king and queen recall some of Odysseus’ exploits at Troy but postpone serious talk until the next day. In the morning, Menelaus expresses outrage at the behavior of Penelope’s suitors and encourages Telemachus by telling him that Odysseus is alive and a captive of Calypso. Back in Ithaca, the suitors have discovered that Telemachus is gone and plan to ambush his ship on its return. Penelope is distraught to learn of her son’s trip and the planned assassination but is soothed by a vision sent by Athena. Homer leaves the plot of Telemachus dangling as selected suitors board a vessel to set up the surprise attack.
**Book Five: Odysseus—Nymph and Shipwreck**

1-23: What does Athena ask of Zeus at this assembly?

24-59: Describe Hermes. What is his relation to Zeus? What is his responsibility?

60-189: Describe Calypso. What is ambrosia? Why does Calypso resist Hermes’ demands? Why does Calypso believe the request to be unfair? How does she know that Odysseus does not love her?

190-251: What does Calypso offer Odysseus if he would agree to stay? What gifts does she give him?

252-308: What gifts does Calypso give Odysseus? What does he have to do in order to leave her island?
309-547: Who is Ino? How does she help save Odysseus from Poseidon’s wrath? How does Athena (“the bright-eyed one”) help him?

In this book, we begin to see that Odysseus finds it difficult to trust people. Look closely at lines 190-199, and lines 391-401. Summarize these scenes in relation to Odysseus’ trust issues. What might it tell us about Odysseus’ past or character that he feels he cannot trust anyone?
Book Six: The Princess and the Stranger


53-121: Where does Nausicaa go with her friends? Why do they go there, and what do they do there?

122-365: Describe the relationship between Odysseus and Nausicaa. Homer spends a lot of time in this book describing Odysseus’ physical presence and its effect on Nausicaa. Describe. To what animal is he compared? Why does he feel the need to cover himself up? What lines point to Nausicaa’s physical “awakening”?
You will be responsible for the information shared in these summaries, and the important information in them must be underlined or highlighted.

Book Seven: Phaeacia’s Halls and Gardens

Athena, in the guise of a young girl, meets Odysseus and guides him to the palace, having enveloped him in mist so that he might not be seen. The magnificent palace and its lovely garden impress Odysseus. He enters and bows in respect to Arete, the queen. Well received, he dines among the nobles of Phaeacia. In the evening, Odysseus describes to King Alcinous and Queen Arete how he came to Phaeacia, but does not reveal his identity. The king promises to speed his journey home.

Book Eight: A Day for Songs and Contests

The next morning, King Alcinous summons an assembly to offer a ship to his guest and then invites the lords into his palace to hear Demodocus, the blind bard, sing a tale of Odysseus at Troy. Alcinous observes that the song draws tears from Odysseus, and he calls for a contest of games. Odysseus responds to a challenge from the proud Euryalus by hurling a discus farther than all, and he issues a general challenge; all are astonished at his valor. Again in the palace, Demodocus sings of the infidelity of Aphrodite, goddess of love, with Ares the war-god, and how her husband Hephaestus, god of crafts, caught them in an invincible net. After marvelous dancing and the presentation of gifts to Odysseus, Demodocus recites the exploits of Odysseus and the wooden horse. Again Odysseus weeps. Alcinous is now sure that the guest is Odysseus and asks him to tell of his adventures.
Books 9-12 are Odysseus’ tales of journey and adventure. These are some of the most famous stories in all of literature. Instead of answering guided questions for these books, you will imagine that you are a famous artist and have been commissioned to illustrate this book. You must choose a passage from the text to inspire an illustration for each of the adventures. Be creative!

Book Nine: In the One-Eyed Giant’s Cave

Draw an illustration based on the adventure of The Land of the Lotus-Eaters. Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.
Draw an illustration based on the adventure of The Cyclops.
Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.
Book Ten: The Bewitching Queen of Aeaea

*Draw an illustration based on the adventure of *Aeolus and the Bag of Winds.*
*Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.*
Draw an illustration based on the adventure of *The Palace of Circe*.
Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.
Draw an illustration based on the adventure of Odysseus in the Underworld.
Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.
Book Twelve: The Cattle of the Sun

*Draw an illustration based on the adventure of The Sirens.*
*Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.*
Draw an illustration based on the adventure of Scylla.
Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.
Draw an illustration based on the adventure of *The Cattle of Helios*.
Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.
Draw an illustration based on the adventure of **Charybdis**.
Under your illustration, provide a passage from the text. Cite the line and page numbers.
You will be responsible for the information shared in these summaries, and the important information in them must be underlined or highlighted.

Book Thirteen: Ithaca at Last

Odysseus is promised gifts, and all retire to bed. Odysseus is brought to Ithaca by the Phaeacians and left in slumber on the shore; their vessel is then turned to stone by Poseidon. When he awakes, Odysseus is met by Athena in disguise, who reveals he is on Ithaca. When he cautiously invents a story to conceal his identity, Athena for the first time appears to Odysseus as a goddess and, explaining the situation at home, disguises Odysseus as a beggar before she visits Sparta to guide Telemachus back.

Book Fourteen: The Loyal Swineherd

Athena meets Odysseus on Ithaca and disguises him as an old beggar so that he can gain information without being recognized. He meets his loyal swineherd, Eumaeus, and is pleased with the man's hospitality as well as his devotion to his master, whom he does not recognize.

Book Fifteen: The Prince Sets Sail for Home

Eumaeus and the beggar/Odysseus continue their conversations, the swineherd proving a perfect host and loyal servant. He tells the story of his life and how he came to Ithaca. Meanwhile, Athena guides Telemachus safely past the suitors' ambush; she tells him to go directly to the pig farm upon arrival at Ithaca. Eumaeus is sent to tell Penelope of her son's safe return.
Book Sixteen: Father and Son

Athena takes this opportunity to alter Odysseus' appearance once more, turning him into a strapping image of his former self; he looks like a god to the shocked and skeptical Telemachus. Odysseus reveals his true identity to his son, and they work out a plan to defeat the suitors. Meanwhile, Antinous also has a plan and tells the other suitors how they must assassinate the prince. However, Amphinomus, the most decent of the suitors, calls for patience in order to learn the will of the gods before striking. His argument wins the day as the suitors agree to postpone the murder of Telemachus. Penelope confronts the intruders but is cut off by the smooth-talking Eurymachus. Back at the pig farm, Athena has turned Odysseus back into the old beggar. Among the mortals, only Telemachus knows who he really is.

Book Seventeen: Stranger at the Gates

Odysseus walks to town the next morning, joined by Eumaeus, who still thinks he is accompanying an old beggar. Telemachus precedes them, cheering his mother with his presence and the stories of his trip. With the prince is a seer (prophet; fortune-teller), Theoclymenus, who tells Penelope that Odysseus is on Ithaca now, gathering information. The queen wishes that she could believe him, but she cannot. During the trip to town, Odysseus and his swineherd cross paths with a bully, the goatherd Melanthius, but avoid a fight. In one famously poignant moment, Odysseus and his dying old dog, Argos, quietly recognize each other. In the banquet hall, Antinous bullies the ragged beggar/Odysseus and even throws a footstool at him. Exercising considerable restraint, both the king and his son manage to postpone revenge.

Book Eighteen: The Beggar-King of Ithaca

As late afternoon turns to evening, another vagabond, named Irus, arrives. He is a portly buffoon who is a comic favorite of the suitors. At the urging of Antinous, Irus picks a fight with beggar/Odysseus, which he soon regrets. As tensions increase, Odysseus tries in vain to warn Amphinomus, the best of the suitors, that trouble is coming and he should leave the group. In preparation for the meeting with Odysseus, Athena makes Penelope look even more beautiful. The queen chastises her son for permitting a fight and putting their guest at risk. Odysseus rebukes Penelope's maidservant Melantho for her neglect of the queen. The impudent girl has been indulging in an illicit affair with Eurymachus, Penelope's smooth-talking suitor. Odysseus and Eurymachus have a confrontation.
At this point, we have seen Odysseus in action. He is a round, dynamic character. In other words, he has both positive and negative qualities and he experiences growth as the story progresses. In these next few pages, consider what it means to be a leader, list Odysseus’ positive and negative qualities, and then take a stand on your own perspective on his leadership.

Define “leadership.”

What qualities does a true leader possess?

In what various ways can leadership be displayed?

How is Odysseus an example of a leader? (Do not judge whether you think he is a good or bad leader.)
Odysseus, as a leader...

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Question: Is Odysseus a good leader?

Essay is Due on: ______________

Opinion: Check one box.

☐ Yes, Odysseus is a good leader.
☐ No, Odysseus is not a good leader.

Support:
Write a two-paragraph mini-essay in which you do the following:

- Introduce the topic
- Take a clear position on the topic
- Defend your position with specific evidence from the text
- Address possible arguments the opposing position may make, and
- Conclude by re-affirming your position.

- **Format:** Times New Roman, Size 12, Double Spaced

Make sure your essay is organized and well-developed.
You must incorporate at least two passages directly quoted from the text with book and line numbers.

Organization for the Mini-Essay:

Paragraph 1: (Four to five sentences):

- Discuss leadership in general terms
- Mention title/author/genre (epic poem)
- **Thesis:** Discuss why Odysseus is or is not a good leader in ONE sentence.

Paragraph 2: (Seven to ten sentences):

- Topic sentence stating at least two specific examples to support your opinion.
- Supporting detail sentences in which you elaborate/explain your examples using evidence from the text.
- **Include at least one direct quote with book, line numbers to support your claim.**
- Briefly discuss an **OPPOSING position to your argument** using evidence from the poem. **Provide a quote with book and line numbers to support that claim,** then explain why that opposing position is wrong.

How to cite from the poem:

Odysseus can be argued to be an effective leader because he is constantly thinking on his feet. For example, he says that, “I was already plotting ... what was the best way out? How could I find escape from death for my crew, myself as well?” (Book 9, Lines 469-471)
Book Nineteen: Penelope and Her Guest

1-104: How does Melantho treat Odysseus? What does Odysseus warn? How does Penelope respond?

105-436: Describe the interaction between Odysseus and Penelope. How does Odysseus prove to her that he knew her “husband”? What does he tell Penelope of Odysseus’ plans?

437-575: How does Eurycleia recognize Odysseus? Why does Odysseus threaten her? How does Eurycleia respond?

576-629: What is Penelope’s dilemma, as she describes through her dream? How does Odysseus interpret her dream?

630-681: Describe the contest Penelope is planning, and why she is planning it. And how does Athena help Penelope at the end of this book?
You will be responsible for the information shared in the following summary, and the important information in it must be underlined or highlighted.

Book Twenty: Portents Gather

Odysseus spends a restless night worrying about the impending battle. He angrily notices the maidservants as they sneak out to meet their lovers among the suitors. Suddenly Athena appears and assures him of vengeful victory. Penelope’s room is nearby, and at dawn, he hears the end of her prayer for death if she cannot join her husband. He imagines that she recognizes him and that they are together at last. Odysseus prays to Zeus for a sign of support and is answered by a thunder clap. This day is a special holiday on Ithaca, a festal celebration in honor of Apollo, god of archery. Melanthius, the goatherd, is in town for the celebration and again bullies Odysseus. Eumaeus, the swineherd, continues to earn his master's trust as does Philoetius, a cowherd. The suitors, talking again of assassinating Telemachus, continue their boorish behavior. One of the lot, Ctesippus, mocks beggar/Odysseus and hurls an oxhoof at the king. Telemachus berates the suitors and lists some of their many offenses. The seer Theoclymenus speaks ominously to them, offering one of their last warnings, but in their arrogance, the suitors respond with derisive laughter.

Book Twenty-One: Odysseus Strings His Bow

1-202: Describe the contest and the behavior of the suitors.

203-273: To whom does Odysseus reveal himself, and how does he do it? What is the plan?

274-484: How does the contest progress? How does Odysseus win the contest? Which characters help Telemachus and Odysseus in their plans?
Book Twenty-Two: Slaughter in the Hall

Describe the events of this, the most violent book. Be sure to include all characters killed, all characters spared, and Athena’s interventions.

In this book, justice is served as Telemachus and Odysseus get their revenge and kill the suitors and the unfaithful servants. What do the events of this book reveal about the culture of Ancient Greece? What lesson(s) does Homer want his listener/reader to learn?
You will be responsible for the information shared in these summaries, and the important information in them must be underlined or highlighted.

Book Twenty-Three: The Great Rooted Bed

Eurycleia informs Penelope of Odysseus' return and tells of his deeds, but Penelope remains suspicious. She is worried that the stranger may be some other man or even a god, but not her husband. Odysseus asks Phemius to play wedding music so that the suitors' family will not suspect the slaughter but will think, rather, that Penelope has chosen a husband. When Odysseus has bathed, Penelope, still aloof, tests him by suggesting that his bed be moved. Odysseus, however, knows the bed he built is immovable for he constructed it around an olive tree which serves as a bedpost. Thus, Penelope recognizes and accepts her husband. He relates the adventures yet in store for him, prophesied by Teiresias, and they retire to their bed where they relate their histories. In the morning, Odysseus wakes his three supporters and leads them to the house of his father, Laertes, in the country.

Book Twenty-Four: Peace

Hermes leads the spirits of the suitors to Hades where Achilles and Agamemnon are conversing. Agamemnon describes the mourning and burial of Achilles, who, he says, is fortunate to have died nobly in battle and to have received a fit funeral. The suitors arrive and recount their death, implicating Penelope in the plot. Agamemnon praises her fidelity. Odysseus tests his father with still another lie and then reveals himself by his scar. Meanwhile, in an assembly, Eupeithes, father of Antinous, rouses the people to seek revenge. This is against the advice of Medon and Halitherses. The two sides meet and Odysseus slays Eupeithes but Athena prevents the unequal battle by frightening the attackers. In the form of Mentor, she proclaims everlasting peace in Ithaca.