

## BOOK 1: Muses, Poets, Gods

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### KEY PASSAGE | Book 1, Paragraphs 1-2

*Tell me, O muse, of that ingenious hero who travelled far and wide after he had sacked the famous town of Troy. Many cities did he visit, and many were the nations with whose manners and customs he was acquainted; moreover he suffered much by sea while trying to save his own life and bring his men safely home; but do what he might he could not save his men, for they perished through their own sheer folly in eating the cattle of the Sun-god Hyperion; so the god prevented them from ever reaching home. Tell me, too, about all these things, O daughter of Jove [Zeus], from whatsoever source you may know them.*

*So now all who escaped death in battle or by shipwreck had got safely home except Ulysses [Odysseus], and he, though he was longing to return to his wife and country, was detained by the goddess Calypso, who had got him into a large cave and wanted to marry him. But as years went by, there came a time when the gods settled that he should go back to Ithaca; even then, however, when he was among his own people, his troubles were not yet over; nevertheless all the gods had now begun to pity him except Neptune [Poseidon], who still persecuted him without ceasing and would not let him get home.*

### YOUR STUDYSYNC® TV

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**Discussion Prompt:** This passage describes the emotion that motivates the entire *Odyssey*: Odysseus' "longing to return to his wife and country." Why is the desire to return home such a powerful force in human experience? What is it about our home—family, town, country of origin—that always calls us back? How does traveling away from home change the experience of being there?

## VOCABULARY

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**blandishment****bland·ish·ment** *noun*

A comment intended to flatter or persuade someone through positive or coaxing language

*Despite her mother's blandishments about the fun they would have baking cupcakes, Hannah decided to go out with her friends.*

**quell****quell** *verb*

To defeat or put a stop to some kind of disobedience or uprising, often by force

*After the rowdy fans started to turn over cars and start fires, the police arrived to quell the violence.*

**pretext****pre·text** *noun*

Information that is used to explain or justify an action, although the real reason might be something else

*Under the pretext of studying for a calculus test, Ken and Joseph convinced their parents to let them get together on a school night, despite the risk of their watching basketball.*

**havoc****hav·oc** *noun*

Devastation or significant damage

*When the football team won, their out-of-control fans caused all sorts of havoc in the small college town.*

**insolent****in·so·lent** *adjective*

Showing disrespect to someone in authority

*She had grown tired of her son's insolent behavior, especially the way he mimicked his grandmother's accent in public.*

## CLOSE READ

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**1:** Why is Odysseus having such a hard time getting home after the Trojan war? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.

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**2:** Why does Athena travel to Ithaca, instead of Ogygia, to free Odysseus from Calypso?

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**3:** Why does Telemachus welcome Athena into his home, even though she is disguised as a strange man, an old friend of his father's called Mentos?

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**4:** Why does Athena send Telemachus to Sparta to get news about his father from Menelaus, instead of simply telling the young man that Odysseus still lives? Use language from the epic to support your answer.

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## BOOKS 2-4: Telemachus in Sparta

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### KEY PASSAGE | Book 4, Paragraph 21

*“Menelaus, son of Atreus, and you my good friends, sons of honourable men (which is as Jove wills, for he is the giver both of good and evil, and can do what he chooses), feast here as you will, and listen while I tell you a tale in season. I cannot indeed name every single one of the exploits of Ulysses, but I can say what he did when he was before Troy, and you Achaeans were in all sorts of difficulties. He covered himself with wounds and bruises, dressed himself all in rags, and entered the enemy’s city looking like a menial or a beggar. and quite different from what he did when he was among his own people. In this disguise he entered the city of Troy, and no one said anything to him. I alone recognized him and began to question him, but he was too cunning for me. When, however, I had washed and anointed him and had given him clothes, and after I had sworn a solemn oath not to betray him to the Trojans till he had got safely back to his own camp and to the ships, he told me all that the Achaeans meant to do. He killed many Trojans and got much information before he reached the Argive camp, for all which things the Trojan women made lamentation, but for my own part I was glad, for my heart was beginning to yearn after my home, and I was unhappy about wrong that Venus had done me in taking me over there, away from my country, my girl, and my lawful wedded husband, who is indeed by no means deficient either in person or understanding.”*

### YOUR STUDYSYNC® TV

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**Discussion Prompt:** As an immortal goddess, Athena knows all that has happened to Odysseus since the war, and could simply tell these things to Telemachus. Why does she send the young man on his journey to Sparta instead? If you think of Telemachus’ trip as a mini-odyssey or quest, what does he gain from stories such as the one that Helen tells him in this passage? Why does The Odyssey tell us of Telemachus’ conversations with Helen, Nestor, and Menelaus before it tells of Odysseus’ adventures?

## VOCABULARY

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**ward**

**ward** *verb*

An action that protects against or sends away something harmful or dangerous

*She always carried a head of garlic in her purse, in case she needed to ward off a vampire.*

**stow**

**stow** *verb*

To put away or store in a place that isn't in plain sight

*Before his destructive cousin came over for dinner, the boy stowed his model trains on a high shelf.*

**suppliant**

**sup•pli•ant** *noun*

Someone who begs or asks for something, especially from a person with greater status or power

*Once a month, the suppliants were allowed to enter the palace and make their requests to the king.*

**divine**

**di•vine** *verb*

To figure out or learn something that isn't obvious or clearly seen by others

*Because she knew her sister so well, she was always able to divine when the other girl was lying.*

**discourse**

**dis•course** *noun*

An ongoing conversation, either written or spoken, about a particular topic or issue.

*Sadly, the tone of political discourse has gotten much meaner and more divisive in recent years.*

**discretion**

**dis•cre•tion** *noun*

Knowledge of tactful behavior, in particular showing respect for another's privacy

*Because of his reputation for discretion, people tended to tell him their darkest secrets.*

## CLOSE READ

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**1:** How has Penelope managed to hold off the advances and proposals of the suitors for so many years?

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**2:** Why are Antinous and the other suitors so confident that they can stay as long as they want in Odysseus' palace, eating as many goats and drinking as much as they want? Use evidence from the epic to support your answer.

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**3:** Why does Nestor tell Telemachus the story of Agamemnon, who was betrayed by his wife Clytemnestra while at war and who was killed upon returning home?

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**4:** How and why does Nestor react after Athena (Minerva) reveals her divine nature by flying away in the form of an eagle? Use evidence from the epic to explain your answer.

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**5:** Why is Menelaus so angry at his servant Eteoneus when Telemachus and his companion first arrive at the gates of Sparta (Lacedaemon)?

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## BOOKS 5-8: A Phaeacian Welcome

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### KEY PASSAGE | Book 6, Paragraphs 15–16

*To this Nausicaa answered, “Stranger, you appear to be a sensible, well-disposed person. There is no accounting for luck; Jove gives prosperity to rich and poor just as he chooses, so you must take what he has seen fit to send you, and make the best of it. Now, however, that you have come to this our country, you shall not want for clothes nor for anything else that a foreigner in distress may reasonably look for. I will show you the way to the town, and will tell you the name of our people; we are called Phaeacians, and I am daughter to Alcinous, in whom the whole power of the state is vested.”*

*Then she called her maids and said, “Stay where you are, you girls. Can you not see a man without running away from him? Do you take him for a robber or a murderer? Neither he nor any one else can come here to do us Phaeacians any harm, for we are dear to the gods, and live apart on a land’s end that juts into the sounding sea, and have nothing to do with any other people. This is only some poor man who has lost his way, and we must be kind to him, for strangers and foreigners in distress are under Jove’s protection, and will take what they can get and be thankful; so, girls, give the poor fellow something to eat and drink, and wash him in the stream at some place that is sheltered from the wind.”*

### YOUR STUDYSYNC® TV

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**Discussion Prompt:** Based on Nausicaa’s actions in this passage and the surrounding scenes, what can you gather about her character? How and why is Nausicaa so certain that Odysseus is a “sensible, well-disposed person”? What would you be expected to do if a stranger wearing rags and tatters showed up where you live? Do our contemporary values and realities differ from the Greek ones in this area, or not?

## VOCABULARY

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**plumage**

**plum•age** *noun*

All of the feathers on a bird

*Peacocks are famous for the spectacular colors and beauty of their plumage.*

**brine**

**brine** *noun*

Salty water

*On her first-ever trip to the beach, she had a fit of coughing from swallowing brine.*

**discomfit**

**dis•com•fit** *verb*

To cause discomfort or embarrassment in another person

*She couldn't believe her so-called friend would discomfit her by telling everyone about her secret crush.*

**disposition**

**dis•po•si•tion** *noun*

A person's nature, or qualities that are consistent aspects of a person's identity or character

*Although he excelled at making hard tackles, the linebacker actually had quite a peaceful disposition off the field.*

**festoon**

**fes•toon** *verb*

To decorate, in particular by hanging garlands or other festive materials

*To prepare for their brother's birthday party, the sisters festooned the yard with paper lanterns and streamers.*

**precipice**

**prec•i•pice** *noun*

A high, steep cliff

*Because the castle was built on a precipice, it was very hard to attack.*

## CLOSE READ

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**1:** Why does Calypso have a change of heart and send Odysseus away from her island and back toward his native Ithaca?

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**2:** When Odysseus first speaks with King Alcinous and Queen Arete, what does he tell them and what does he keep secret?

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**3:** What kind of entertainment does Alcinous provide for Odysseus, and how does Odysseus react?

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**4:** Why do the Phaeacians hold sporting competitions while hosting Odysseus? Use evidence from the epic to support your answer.

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**5:** What makes Alcinous insist that Odysseus declare his identity and explain the story of his travels?

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## BOOK 9: Noman Escapes the Cyclops

### KEY PASSAGE | Book 9, Paragraphs 27–33

*“What ails you, Polyphemus,” said they, “that you make such a noise, breaking the stillness of the night, and preventing us from being able to sleep? Surely no man is carrying off your sheep? Surely no man is trying to kill you either by fraud or by force?”*

*“But Polyphemus shouted to them from inside the cave, ‘Noman is killing me by fraud; no man is killing me by force.’*

*“Then,” said they, “if no man is attacking you, you must be ill; when Jove makes people ill, there is no help for it, and you had better pray to your father Neptune.”*

*“Then they went away, and I laughed inwardly at the success of my clever stratagem, but the Cyclops, groaning and in an agony of pain, felt about with his hands till he found the stone and took it from the door; then he sat in the doorway and stretched his hands in front of it to catch anyone going out with the sheep, for he thought I might be foolish enough to attempt this.*

*“As for myself I kept on puzzling to think how I could best save my own life and those of my companions; I schemed and schemed, as one who knows that his life depends upon it, for the danger was very great. In the end I deemed that this plan would be the best; the male sheep were well grown, and carried a heavy black fleece, so I bound them noiselessly in threes together, with some of the withies on which the wicked monster used to sleep. There was to be a man under the middle sheep, and the two on either side were to cover him, so that there were three sheep to each man. As for myself there was a ram finer than any of the others, so I caught hold of him by the back, ensconced myself in the thick wool under his belly, and hung on patiently to his fleece, face upwards, keeping a firm hold on it all the time.*

*“Thus, then, did we wait in great fear of mind till morning came, but when the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, the male sheep hurried out to feed, while the ewes remained bleating about the pens waiting to be*

*milked, for their udders were full to bursting; but their master in spite of all his pain felt the backs of all the sheep as they stood upright, without being sharp enough to find out that the men were underneath their bellies. As the ram was going out, last of all, heavy with its fleece and with the weight of my crafty self, Polyphemus laid hold of it and said:*

*“My good ram, what is it that makes you the last to leave my cave this morning? You are not wont to let the ewes go before you, but lead the mob with a run whether to flowery mead or bubbling fountain, and are the first to come home again at night; but now you lag last of all. Is it because you know your master has lost his eye, and are sorry because that wicked Noman and his horrid crew has got him down in his drink and blinded him?”*

## YOUR STUDYSYNC® TV

**Discussion Prompt:** Based on what you know about Odysseus’ travels to the land of the Cyclopes, are Odysseus’ actions in this passage justified, and why? How has Polyphemus disobeyed the values of hospitality? Does his claim that Odysseus is “wicked” have any merit? Explain.

## VOCABULARY

### array

**ar•ray** *noun*

A varied collection of something

*Although the ice cream store had started by selling only strawberry, chocolate, and vanilla, they expanded to offer a wide array of flavors.*

### paunch

**paunch** *noun*

A sizable belly, one that sticks out from the rest of the body

*His paunch hung over his belt.*

### sputter

**sput•ter** *verb*

Repeated quiet blurts of sound, often in reference to the sound of an engine that isn’t fully working, or is about to shut down

*The lawn mower sputtered a few times before starting up completely.*

### ensconce

**en•sconce** *verb*

To take position in a comfortable, settled, or private place

*She was already ensconced on her couch, wearing pajamas and snuggled in a blanket, when her friends called and asked her to go to the movies.*

### valiant

**val•iant** *adjective*

Someone or something that is bold, determined, or without fear

*The shorthanded team put up a valiant defense but still ended up losing in overtime.*

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## CLOSE READ

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**1:** What kind of trouble do Odysseus' men find in the Land of the Lotus Eaters?

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**2:** How does the Cyclops society differ from Greek kingdoms such as Ithaca? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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**3:** How does Odysseus overcome the greater physical strength of Polyphemus the Cyclops, who has been eating his men?

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**4:** How does the Cyclops figure out the real identity of the man who blinded and escaped him, even though Odysseus uses the trick name of Noman?

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## BOOKS 10-13: Back to Ithaca

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### KEY PASSAGE | Book 12, Paragraphs 12–14

*“On this the ghost of Teiresias went back to the house of Hades, for his prophecies had now been spoken, but I sat still where I was until my mother came up and tasted the blood. Then she knew me at once and spoke fondly to me, saying, ‘My son, how did you come down to this abode of darkness while you are still alive? It is a hard thing for the living to see these places, for between us and them there are great and terrible waters, and there is Oceanus, which no man can cross on foot, but he must have a good ship to take him. Are you all this time trying to find your way home from Troy, and have you never yet got back to Ithaca nor seen your wife in your own house?’*

*“‘Mother,’ said I, ‘I was forced to come here to consult the ghost of the Theban prophet Teiresias. I have never yet been near the Achaean land nor set foot on my native country, and I have had nothing but one long series of misfortunes from the very first day that I set out with Agamemnon for Ilius, the land of noble steeds, to fight the Trojans. But tell me, and tell me true, in what way did you die? Did you have a long illness, or did heaven vouchsafe you a gentle easy passage to eternity? Tell me also about my father, and the son whom I left behind me, is my property still in their hands, or has someone else got hold of it, who thinks that I shall not return to claim it? Tell me again what my wife intends doing, and in what mind she is; does she live with my son and guard my estate securely, or has she made the best match she could and married again?’*

*“My mother answered, ‘Your wife still remains in your house, but she is in great distress of mind and spends her whole time in tears both night and day. No one as yet has got possession of your fine property, and Telemachus still holds your lands undisturbed. He has to entertain largely, as of course he must, considering his position as a magistrate, and how every one invites him; your father remains at his old place in the country and never goes near the town. He has no comfortable bed nor bedding; in the winter he sleeps on the*

*floor in front of the fire with the men and goes about all in rags, but in summer, when the warm weather comes on again, he lies out in the vineyard on a bed of vine leaves thrown anyhow upon the ground. He grieves continually about your never having come home, and suffers more and more as he grows older. As for my own end it was in this wise: heaven did not take me swiftly and painlessly in my own house, nor was I attacked by any illness such as those that generally wear people out and kill them, but my longing to know what you were doing and the force of my affection for you—this it was that was the death of me.”*

## YOUR STUDYSYNC® TV

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**Discussion Prompt:** While many of Odysseus’ adventures happen because Poseidon blows him off course or because his men misbehave, he is commanded to make the journey to the Underworld. Why is it so important for Odysseus to visit the Land of the Dead? In what ways does our own culture ask to visit or communicate with the dead, and how does our understanding of death differ from or relate to that shown in this part of *The Odyssey*?

## VOCABULARY

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**reconnoiter****re•con•noi•ter** *verb*

To scout out or observe a particular place, usually for strategic purposes

*No one in the troop wanted to reconnoiter the area where the enemy archers had last been seen.*

**charlatan****char•la•tan** *noun*

Someone who lies about his or her abilities in a certain area

*The medicine man proved he was no charlatan by healing the sick with his rituals.*

**swindler****swin•dler** *noun*

A person who uses lies to trick someone else out of property or money

*The woman, a practiced swindler, got people to give her their possessions by pretending to work in her uncle’s pawn shop.*

**prodigious****pro•di•gious** *adjective*

Extensive in size, quantity, or amount

*The young man had amassed a prodigious collection of baseball cards in the past twelve years.*

**famine**

**fam·ine** *noun*

An extremely serious shortage of food  
*Because they had stored smoked meat and stewed tomatoes, the settlers survived the famine of 1852.*

**bounteous**

**boun·te·ous** *adjective*

Plentiful; generous; more than enough  
*In order to satisfy a diverse group of customers, the grocery store always stocked a bounteous inventory.*

**CLOSE READ**

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**1:** Why doesn't Odysseus benefit from the protective gift that the god Aeolus gives him?

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**2:** What sorts of enchantments does the witch Circe perform on Odysseus' men? Why is Odysseus immune to her sorcery?

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**3:** How does Odysseus escape the perils that he must face after he leaves Circe's island? Use details from The Odyssey to support your answer.

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**4:** Do Eurylochus and Odysseus' men act in a manner that honors the gods when they land on the sun-god's isle? Explain whether their behavior is respectful or not.

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**5:** How does Odysseus react when he first wakes up in Ithaca? Use details from the epic to support your answer.

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## BOOKS 14-21: Father and Son Reunited

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### KEY PASSAGE | Book 21, Paragraphs 2–3

*Penelope presently reached the oak threshold of the store-room; the carpenter had planed this duly, and had drawn a line on it so as to get it quite straight; he had then set the door posts into it and hung the doors. She loosed the strap from the handle of the door, put in the key, and drove it straight home to shoot back the bolts that held the doors; these flew open with a noise like a bull bellowing in a meadow, and Penelope stepped upon the raised platform, where the chests stood in which the fair linen and clothes were laid by along with fragrant herbs: reaching thence, she took down the bow with its bow case from the peg on which it hung. She sat down with it on her knees, weeping bitterly as she took the bow out of its case, and when her tears had relieved her, she went to the cloister where the suitors were, carrying the bow and the quiver, with the many deadly arrows that were inside it. Along with her came her maidens, bearing a chest that contained much iron and bronze which her husband had won as prizes. When she reached the suitors, she stood by one of the bearing-posts supporting the roof of the cloister, holding a veil before her face, and with a maid on either side of her. Then she said:*

*“Listen to me you suitors, who persist in abusing the hospitality of this house because its owner has been long absent, and without other pretext than that you want to marry me; this, then, being the prize that you are contending for, I will bring out the mighty bow of Ulysses, and whomsoever of you shall string it most easily and send his arrow through each one of twelve axes, him will I follow and quit this house of my lawful husband, so goodly, and so abounding in wealth. But even so I doubt not that I shall remember it in my dreams.”*

### YOUR STUDYSYNC® TV

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**Discussion Prompt:** Why do Athena (Minerva) and Penelope set up the test of the bow and the axes? Why is it important for heroes to demonstrate their strength, even when they are not yet in the middle of dangerous battles? What might such trials tell you about

the role of tests in the Greek world? Are there similar sorts of tests and trials in more contemporary culture?

## VOCABULARY

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### amass

**a•mass** *verb*

To put together a large collection of something  
*Because he had so many allies, the king was able to amass a huge fleet of ships before the war.*

### brawny

**brawn•y** *adjective*

Having great physical strength or large muscles  
*The pitcher only gained his brawny body after spending months at the gym.*

### wanton

**wan•ton** *adjective*

Violent or destructive for no good reason  
*Breaking the windows of the nursing home was a pointless and wanton action.*

### infamy

**in•fa•my** *noun*

A reputation that relates to bad quality  
*The student gained a widespread infamy after cheating on every single test for an entire year.*

### propriety

**pro•pri•e•ty** *noun*

The quality of obeying social expectations and standards  
*Writing handwritten thank-you notes for every present she received was typical of her sense of propriety.*

### incessant

**in•ces•sant** *adjective*

Not stopping, usually in reference to something undesirable  
*When the carpenters started working upstairs, the incessant pounding gave me a headache.*

### illustrious

**il•lus•tri•ous** *adjective*

Famous for admirable feats or qualities  
*The illustrious goalkeeper had made many miraculous saves during the most recent World Cup.*

## CLOSE READ

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**1:** What plan does Odysseus make for entering the palace and witnessing the insolence and offenses of the suitors, and why does he make this plan? (Book 15)

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**2:** How does Telemachus react after Odysseus reveals his identity to his son? Use details from The Odyssey to support your answer. (Book 16)

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**3:** How does Antinous, the leader of the suitors, react when he meets Odysseus disguised as a beggar, and why does this reaction seal his fate? (Book 17)

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**4:** Who is the first woman in Ithaca to figure out the true identity of Odysseus, and how does she recognize him?

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**5:** On the day of the great battle with the suitors, how does Odysseus get past his anxiety about whether he is capable of fighting?

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## BOOKS 22-24: Order Is Restored

### KEY PASSAGE | Book 23, Paragraphs 18–20

*She said this to try him, but Ulysses was very angry and said, "Wife, I am much displeased at what you have just been saying. Who has been taking my bed from the place in which I left it? He must have found it a hard task, no matter how skilled a workman he was, unless some god came and helped him to shift it. There is no man living, however strong and in his prime, who could move it from its place, for it is a marvellous curiosity which I made with my very own hands. There was a young olive growing within the precincts of the house, in full vigour, and about as thick as a bearing-post. I built my room round this with strong walls of stone and a roof to cover them, and I made the doors strong and well-fitting. Then I cut off the top boughs of the olive tree and left the stump standing. This I dressed roughly from the root upwards and then worked with carpenter's tools well and skilfully, straightening my work by drawing a line on the wood, and making it into a bed-prop. I then bored a hole down the middle, and made it the centre-post of my bed, at which I worked till I had finished it, inlaying it with gold and silver; after this I stretched a hide of crimson leather from one side of it to the other. So you see I know all about it, and I desire to learn whether it is still there, or whether any one has been removing it by cutting down the olive tree at its roots."*

*When she heard the sure proofs Ulysses now gave her, she fairly broke down. She flew weeping to his side, flung her arms about his neck, and kissed him. "Do not be angry with me, Ulysses," she cried, "you, who are the wisest of mankind. We have suffered, both of us. Heaven has denied us the happiness of spending our youth, and of growing old, together; do not then be aggrieved or take it amiss that I did not embrace you thus as soon as I saw you. I have been shuddering all the time through fear that someone might come here and deceive me with a lying story; for there are many very wicked people going about. Jove's daughter Helen would never have yielded herself to a man from*

*a foreign country, if she had known that the sons of Achaeans would come after her and bring her back. Heaven put it in her heart to do wrong, and she gave no thought to that sin, which has been the source of all our sorrows. Now, however, that you have convinced me by showing that you know all about our bed (which no human being has ever seen but you and I and a single maidservant, the daughter of Actor, who was given me by my father on my marriage, and who keeps the doors of our room), hard of belief though I have been I can mistrust no longer.”*

*Then Ulysses in his turn melted, and wept as he clasped his dear and faithful wife to his bosom. As the sight of land is welcome to men who are swimming towards the shore, when Neptune has wrecked their ship with the fury of his winds and waves; a few alone reach the land, and these, covered with brine, are thankful when they find themselves on firm ground and out of danger—even so was her husband welcome to her as she looked upon him, and she could not tear her two fair arms from about his neck. Indeed they would have gone on indulging their sorrow till rosy-fingered morn appeared, had not Minerva determined otherwise, and held night back in the far west, while she would not suffer Dawn to leave Oceanus, nor to yoke the two steeds Lampus and Phaethon that bear her onward to break the day upon mankind.*

## YOUR STUDYSYNC® TV

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**Discussion Prompt:** Why doesn't Penelope trust Odysseus, even after he has reunited with Telemachus and killed all the suitors? Why might this distrust make sense in the world of *The Odyssey*? What is the value in testing the people that one loves?

## VOCABULARY

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### **vouchsafe**

**vouch•safe** *verb*

To bestow or give something to someone who has less or is of lower stature

*The generous queen vouchsafed the peasants with food and drink during the long winter.*

### **vitals**

**vi•tals** *noun*

The essential organs inside the human body  
*She believed that people should donate their vitals in the event of their death.*

**cloister**

**clois•ter** *noun*

An outdoor walking area in a convent or monastery; a peaceful place

*The nuns had some free time after evening prayers, and on warm nights they liked to walk through the cloister.*

**lamentation**

**lam•en•ta•tion** *noun*

Weeping, wailing, or other loud and intense proclamations of mourning or sadness

*Although he had always been told to keep his emotions private, when the team lost the championship game, he joined his teammates in their lamentation.*

**dirge**

**dirge** *noun*

A hymn for someone who has died, sung as part of a funeral ceremony

*She was honored to sing a dirge at her grandmother's memorial service.*

**CLOSE READ**

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**1:** Who does Odysseus spare as he is killing the suitors, their servants, and the women that kept them company? Why does he show mercy in these cases? (Book 22)

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**2:** What does Penelope think when Euryclea tells her that Odysseus has returned and killed the suitors?

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**3:** Where does Odysseus have to go next, so soon after returning to his son and his wife? What is the purpose of this new odyssey? Use language from the epic to support your answer.

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**4:** How does Odysseus convince his father Laertes that Odysseus is actually the old man's son?

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