

Journal Prompts

The Odyssey



1. What is appealing about beginning this epic with the story of Telemachus waiting at home for his father?
2. What practices of ancient Greek culture seem most important in the first books of *The Odyssey*?
3. What are some of the biggest challenges you are facing in reading this text, and how are you meeting those challenges?
4. How would you describe the character of Odysseus? Does he change at all in the course of the epic?
5. What is appealing about court life, as we see it in the palaces of Nestor, Menelaus, Alcinous and others?
6. In what ways does this ancient text seem modern in its situations and telling?
7. What aspects of the Greek gods and goddesses are introduced in *The Odyssey*?
8. How do his many adventures at sea prepare Odysseus for facing conflicts once he returns to Ithaca?
9. How does Homer portray women in *The Odyssey*? You can focus on a single character or consider a group of them.
10. Write your own question about *The Odyssey*, and address it in your journal entry.