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The Odyssey, part 3

**Active Reading Questions**

Prentice Hall,

**Directions:** Answer the following questions as you read excerpts from The Odyssey in your Prentice Hall textbook. Any page numbers refer to your textbook.

Odysseus’ revenge

1. Do you think the illustration on page 1106 presents the slaughter of the suitor’s accurately? Explain.

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2. Does the manner in which Odysseus kills Antinious agree with your ideas of a “fair fight”? Explain

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3. Whom does Odysseus kill first?

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4. What cultural values are revealed by Odysseus’ explanation of his anger on page 1108, lines 1441-1444?

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5. What does Eurymachus offer Odysseus to try to calm his anger?

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6. What cultural values are reflected in Telemachus’ behavior toward his father?

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Penelope’s test

1. Which details in the epic simile in lines 1547-1551 compare Odysseus’ hair to a work of art?

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2. Who helps Odyssues defeat the suitors?

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3. Explain why the simile comparing the olive trunk to a pillar is not an epic simile?

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4. How does the image on page 1113 convey the events in the text?

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5. How does Odysseus react to Penelope’s attitude toward him?

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6. In what way does the epic simile recall the dangers Odysseus faced on his journey home? (lines 1613-end of the story)

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**Critical Thinking**

1. Who do you think faced greater hardships – Odysseus or Penelope?

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2. (a.) When Odysseus returns to his home, who helps him?

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(b.) What does the varying social status of Odysseus’ helpers suggest about his character?

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3. (a.) What planning does Odysseus do before he battles the suitors?

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(b.) How does his planning help him defeat his opponents?

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4. (a.) What is Penelope’s test, and how does Odysseus pass it?

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(b.) Why does Penelope feel the need to test Odysseus even though he has abandoned his disguise?

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5. Are Odysseus’ actions in dealing with the suitors consistent with his actions in earlier episodes of the epic? Support your response with examples from the text.

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