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The Odyssey, part 2

**Active Reading Questions**

Prentice Hall, pages 1089-1114

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

“Twenty years gone, and I am back again…”

1. What can you tell about Eumaeus from the illustration on page 1091?

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2. What do lines 1021-1029 suggest about the way ancient Greeks responded to the presence of a god?

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3. To what are Odysseus’ and Telemachus’ cries compared in the epic simile in lines 1063-1065?

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4. Why is Telemachus initially doubtful that the man before him is Odysseus, his father?

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5. What does Odysseus’ statement in lines 1109-1111 suggest about ancient Greek beliefs about the gods’ interest in human affairs?

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6. How does Odysseus tell his son to respond if the suitors “practice shots” on Odysseus?

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Argus

1. What can you infer about the ancient Greeks based on the fact that they depicted their gods on everyday items like the urn pictured on page 1096?

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2. How do Eumaeus’ beliefs about servitude and slavery compare with those of your own culture?

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The suitors

1. How does Antinous react to Odysseus, who is disguised as a beggar?

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2. What conflicting values does this exchange between Antinous and Odysseus reveal?

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3. What values regarding the use of physical force are evident in speech (lines 1236-1246)?

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4. What ancient Greek belief is conveyed in this suitor’s speech?

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5. How does Penelope regard Antinous?  
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Penelope

1. How do the ancient Greek ideas in Penelope’s speech about honoring the dead compare to modern ideas?

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2. How was Penelope able to delay marriage for three years?

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3. The winner of the archery contest will win Penelope’s hand in marriage. What details or artistic techniques capture the tension in the scene of the painting on page 1102?

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the challenge

1. What means does Penelope decide she will use to choose a husband?

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2. Does the hunter pictured on the pottery on page 1104 show the same grace as does Odysseus in lines 1370-1392? Explain.

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**Critical Thinking**

1. If you were Telmachus or Penelope, how would you react to the stranger’s arrival? Explain your answer.

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2. (a.) Who does Telemachus think Odysseus is when they first reunite?

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(b.) Compare Odysseus’ emotions with those of Telemachus at their reunion.

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3. (a.) Describe Antinous’ treatment of Odysseus.

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(b.) Why do you think Antinous treads Odysseus as he does?

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4. (a.) What does Odysseus tell Penelope about himself?

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(b.) Why do you think Odysseus chooses not to reveal his identity to his wife?

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