

THE TELEMACHY (BOOKS 1-4)

THE ODYSSEY NOTEBOOK CHECK

NAME _____ # _____ HOUR _____

ANY UNFINISHED NOTEBOOK CHECKS/CLASS ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED FOR HOMEWORK.

NC 1 INTRODUCTION TO EPIC POETRY USING HOMER'S *THE ODYSSEY*

NC 2 -> DETERMINING CHARACTER THROUGH CONFLICT
EXCERPTS 1-2 BOOK ONE : "THE TELEMACHY"

NC 4-5 DETERMINING CHARACTER THROUGH CONFLICT
EXCERPTS 1-2 BOOK ONE : "THE TELEMACHY"

NC 6-7 DETERMINING CHARACTER THROUGH CONFLICT
EXCERPTS 3-4 BOOK ONE : "THE TELEMACHY"

NC 8-9 DETERMINING CHARACTER THROUGH CONFLICT
EXCERPTS 3-4 BOOK ONE : "THE TELEMACHY"

NC 10 PARAPHRASING THE SUMMARY

NC 11 COMPARING TEXTS EXTENSION TASK: ARISTOTLE'S *POETICS*

NOTEBOOK CHECK #1 INTRODUCTION TO EPIC POETRY USING HOMER'S *THE ODYSSEY*

Objectives:

- Students will annotate the text to pay closer attention as they read and gain a closer perspective of the text.
- Students will analyze the text for unfamiliar terminology, making inferences based on their reading, and responding to guided reading questions to illustrate their comprehension of the text.
- Students will objectively summarize the invocation using the guiding questions.

An epic is a long, book-length poem that tells a story about a hero. The ancient poet Homer wrote both *The Iliad* (the story of the Greeks defeating their enemies during the ten-year Trojan War) and *The Odyssey* (the story of the Greek king Odysseus' tumultuous ten-year journey home to Ithaca). The following characteristics are just some distinctive elements of the epic genre:

- Beginning *in medias res* or "in the middle of things."
- An *invocation* or prayer to the gods for inspiration at the beginning of the poem.
- *Epic similes* or *Homeric similes*, which are more involved, more ornate than the typical simile, often lasting last several lines.
- *Epithets* or phrases that rename characters: for example, Athena is called "the clear-eyed goddess," Odysseus "the master tactician," and Hermes "the giant killer." These epithets sometimes function as appositive phrases.

Reading and Annotating the Invocation

Read the invocation and the first few lines of Book One of *The Odyssey* below. Follow the instructions below as you annotate:

1. For your first reading, define the terms that have been boxed for you. Write a synonym or definition directly above the boxed word.
2. For your second reading, use a handbook of mythological terms, the Internet, or your notes to look up background information for the shaded terms. Write the explanation directly above the term.
3. Finally, use the questions on the right side of the text to guide you as you record your insights and impressions about the text.

<p>THE INVOCATION</p> <p>1 Sing to me of the man, Muse, <u>the man of twists and turns</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>driven time and again off course, once he had blundered</p> <p>the hallowed heights of Troy.</p> <p>5 Many cities of men he saw and learned their minds, many pains he suffered, heartsick on the open sea, fighting to save his life and bring his comrades home.</p> <p>But he could not save them from disaster, hard as he</p> <p>strove—</p> <p>the recklessness of their own ways destroyed them all,</p>	<p>Explain the underlined epithet. Who is it describing, and what does it suggest about him?</p> <p>Throughout the passage, highlight for patterns of diction. Write the effect in the margin beside the text.</p>
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<p>the blind fools, they devoured the cattle of the Sun 10 and the Sungod blotted out the day of their return.</p> <p><u>Launch out on his story, Muse, daughter of Zeus, start from where you will—sing for our time too.</u></p> <p>BEGINNING OF BOOK ONE, “Athena Inspires the Prince”</p> <p>By now, all the survivors, all who avoided headlong death 15 were safe at home, escaped the wars and waves.</p> <p>But one man alone ... his heart set on his wife and his return—Calypso, the bewitching nymph, the lustrous goddess, held him back, deep in her arching caverns, craving him for a husband.</p> <p>20 But then, when the wheeling seasons brought the year around, that year spun out by the gods when he should reach his home, Ithaca—though not even there would he be free of trials, even among his loved ones—then every god took pity, all except Poseidon. He raged on, seething against 25 the great Odysseus till he reached his native land.</p>	<p>Read the underlined portion. What is the tone (the speaker’s attitude toward the subject)?</p> <p>What are some of the conflicts that Odysseus has faced?</p> <p>What obstacles does Odysseus still face?</p>
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Writing an Objective Summary

In the space below, write an objective summary of what is happening in the passage. You might use the questions below to help you write your summary:

- o Who is the text about?
- o Where is this story taking place?
- o When does the action begin?
- o What seems to be the problem?
- o Why is there a problem? Is there any background information?

Writing Prompt: How has Telemachus changed throughout Book 1?

Write a paragraph explaining the changes in his character. Use evidence from the text.

READING AND ANNOTATING INSTRUCTIONS:

This text will be utilized for your test/writing. Do your best to annotate the text fully and completely.

1. **BOX and DEFINE** terms you do not know by choosing an appropriate synonym that has the same part of speech as the term. Write the synonym above each boxed term to help you better understand the excerpt.
2. **Summarize and make note** of big ideas and events in the text.
3. **Highlight and identify literary elements** throughout the text—i.e. epithets, epic similes, personification
4. **Identify speakers of dialogue** throughout the text to get a better understanding of the characters.
5. Answer/complete all the **questions/instructions in the margins.**

“The Ship of Odysseys with Oars and a Furled Sail” by Francois-Louis Schmied



NK 2-3: Determining Character Through Conflict Excerpts 1-2

BOOK ONE : The Telemachy

Objective: Students will analyze a character in Book I and his response to various kinds of conflict, noting actions and motivations to make an assertion about the character using annotation skills and graphic organizers.

Students will culminate their reading and annotations by writing a character analyses in paragraph form using evidence from the text.

Scholars call Books One through Four of *The Odyssey* "The Telemachy." In these introductory books, we learn the background of the conflicts that Odysseus is experiencing as a wanderer as well as the problems that plague his wife Penelope and son Telemachus back home in Ithaca.

Summary: *Nearly ten years have passed since the end of the war against Troy, but one of the greatest Greek generals has not yet returned home. Odysseus has encountered a series of disasters on his voyage and is now the prisoner of a nymph named Calypso. Odysseus has been imprisoned by Calypso for seven years, and he is miserable. He has angered Poseidon, who has prevented him from returning to his wife, Penelope, and his son, Telemachus, on the island of Ithaca. Athena begs her father, Zeus, to allow Odysseus to return safely to his home. But Odysseus has an enemy among the gods, Poseidon, the god of the sea. But Poseidon is visiting Africa, and Zeus and the other gods agree to act behind his back to assist Odysseus. Zeus sends Hermes, the messenger god, to Ogygia, to command Calypso to free Odysseus. Athena's next move is to make her way to Ithaca to help Odysseus's young son, Telemachus, cope with another problem. His home—the palace of Odysseus—is overrun by his mother's suitors. Those arrogant men have taken over Odysseus's house. They are partying on the boys inheritance and are demanding that his mother, Penelope, take one of them as a husband.*

Paraphrase/List what you learned:

Conflict can occur between

- two or more individuals (individual versus individual),
- an individual and his/her environment,
- an individual versus society,
- an individual versus himself or herself, and in epic poetry,
- an individual versus a god or goddess.

Characterization is developed through words, actions, and descriptions. What does a character do, especially when facing a conflict? What does a character say? What do others say about him or her?

DIRECTIONS: As you read the selected passages, highlight portions of the text that reveals the character of Telemachus as he responds to conflict. When you finish a passage, complete the activities following each excerpt. Consider the questions to help you contextualize your evidence. Use your Character Trait Resource for help with this assignment.

Passage 1 from Book One

1 Athena, her eyes flashing bright, exulted,
 "Father, son of Cronus, our high and mighty king!
 If now it really pleases the blissful gods
 that wise Odysseus shall return—home at last—
 5 let us dispatch the guide and giant-killer Hermes
 down to Ogygia Island, down to announce at once
 to the nymph with lovely braids our fixed decree:
 Odysseus journeys home—the exile must return!
 While I myself go down to Ithaca, rouse his son
 10 to a braver pitch, inspire his heart with courage
 to summon the flowing-haired Achaeans to full assembly,
 speak his mind to all those suitors, slaughtering on and on
 his droves of sheep and shambling longhorn cattle.

15 Next I will send him off to Sparta and sandy Pylos,
 there to learn of his dear father's journey home.
 Perhaps he will hear some news and make his name

Highlight the EPITHETS

Why is Odysseus still not home?

Who is in Sparta?

throughout the mortal world.”

20 So Athena vowed
and under her feet she fastened the supple sandals,
ever-glowing gold, that wing her over the waves
and boundless earth with the rush of gusting winds.
She seized the rugged spear tipped with a bronze point—
weighted, heavy, the massive shaft she wields to break the lines
of heroes the mighty Father’s daughter storms against.
25 And down she swept from Olympus’ craggy peaks
and lit on Ithaca, standing tall at Odysseus’ gates, the threshold of his court.
Gripping her bronze spear, she looked for all the world like a stranger now,
like Mentos, lord of the Taphians.

30 There she found the swaggering suitors, just then
amusing themselves with rolling dice before the doors,
lounging on hides of oxen they had killed themselves.

35 While heralds and brisk attendants bustled round them,
some at the mixing-bowls, mulling wine and water,
others wiping the tables down with sopping sponges,
setting them out in place, still other servants
jointed and carved the great sides of meat.

First by far to see her was Prince Telemachus,
sitting among the suitors, heart obsessed with grief.
He could almost see his magnificent father, here ...

40 in the mind’s eye—if only he might drop from the clouds
and drive these suitors all in a rout throughout the halls
and regain his pride of place and rule his own domains!

45 Daydreaming so as he sat among the suitors,
he glimpsed Athena now
and straight to the porch he went, mortified
that a guest might still be standing at the doors.

50 Pausing beside her there, he clasped her right hand
and relieving her at once of her long bronze spear,
met her with winged words: “Greetings, stranger!
Here in our house you’ll find a royal welcome.
Have supper first, then tell us what you need.”

What did Athena do before she appeared to Telemachus?

Highlight descriptions of Telemachus’s character. Describe the state of affairs in Odysseus’s home. How are the suitors behaving?

When Telemachus sees Athena/Mentos standing at the door, why is he “mortified”? (hint: greek concept)

Citing Evidence (Book.line #s) Examples: (1.37-38)

Passage 1	Description of Episode	Character Traits	Actions and Motivations	Key Quotations that Reveal Character Traits.
Concise summary for context: What type of conflict does Telemachus deal with in this passage?	Assertions about Telemachus based on the passage: Telemachus is ___.	Who or what is motivating his actions?	Provide textual evidence for your answer. <u>Copy one quote and cite correctly. Highlight and make note of others in the text.</u>	

NK 4-5: Determining Character Through Conflict Excerpts 1-2

BOOK ONE :~The Telemachy~

DIRECTIONS: As you read the selected passages, highlight portions of the text that reveals the character of Telemachus as he responds to conflict. When you finish a passage, complete the activities following each excerpt. Consider the questions to help you contextualize your evidence. Use your Character Trait Resource for help with this assignment.

Passage 2 from Book One

ATHENA "You're truly Odysseus' son? You've sprung up so!
 Uncanny resemblance ... the head, and the fine eyes—
 I see him now. How often we used to meet in the old days
 before he embarked for Troy, where other Argive captains,
 5 all the best men, sailed in the long curved ships.
 From then to this very day
 I've not set eyes on Odysseus or he on me."

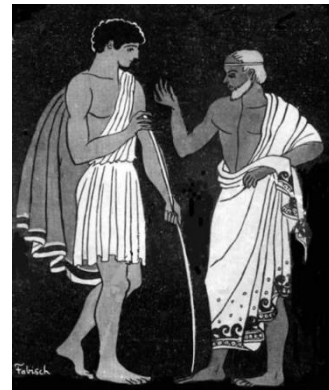
TELEMACHUS And young Telemachus cautiously replied,
 "I'll try, my friend, to give you a frank answer.
 10 Mother has always told me I'm his son, it's true,
 but I am not so certain. Who, on his own,
 has ever really known who gave him life?
 Would to god I'd been the son of a happy man
 whom old age overtook in the midst of his possessions!
 15 Now, think of the most unlucky mortal ever born—
 since you ask me, yes, they say I am his son."

ATHENA "Still," the clear-eyed goddess reassured him,
 "trust me, the gods have not marked out your house
 for such an unsung future,
 20 not if Penelope has borne a son like you.
 But tell me about all this and spare me nothing.
 What's this banqueting, this crowd carousing here?
 And what part do you play yourself? Some wedding-feast, some festival?
 Hardly a potluck supper, I would say.
 25 How obscenely they lounge and swagger here, look,
 gorging in your house. Why, any man of sense
 who chanced among them would be outraged,
 seeing such behavior."

TELEMACHUS Ready Telemachus
 31 took her up at once: "Well, my friend,
 seeing you want to probe and press the question,
 once this house was rich, no doubt, beyond reproach
 when the man you mentioned still lived here, at home.
 Now the gods have reversed our fortunes with a vengeance—
 35 wiped that man from the earth like no one else before.
 I would never have grieved so much about his death
 if he'd gone down with comrades off in Troy
 or died in the arms of loved ones,
 once he had wound down the long coil of war.
 40 Then all united Achaea would have raised his tomb
 and he'd have won his son great fame for years to come.
 But now the whirlwinds have ripped him away, no fame for him!
 He's lost and gone now—out of sight, out of mind—and I ...
 he's left me tears and grief. Nor do I rack my heart

Why is Athena so invested in Odysseus welfare?

Highlight descriptions of Telemachus's character.



What does Athena/Mentes want to know?

How does she feel about the suitors?

What is the state of affairs? List Telemachus main complaints:

NK 6-7: Determining Character through Conflict Excerpts 3-4

BOOK ONE :~The Telemachy~

DIRECTIONS: As you read the selected passages, highlight portions of the text that reveals the character of Telemachus as he responds to conflict. When you finish a passage, complete the activities following each excerpt. Consider the questions to help you contextualize your evidence. Use your Character Trait Resource for help with this assignment.

Passage 3 *from Book One*

1 With that promise, off and away Athena the bright-eyed goddess flew like a bird in soaring flight but left [Telemachus's] spirit filled with nerve and courage, charged with his father's memory more than ever now.

5 He felt his senses quicken, overwhelmed with wonder— this was a god, he knew it well and made at once for the suitors, a man like a god himself.

Amidst them still the famous [bard] sang on, and they sat in silence, listening as he performed The Achaeans' Journey Home from Troy, all the blows Athena doomed them to endure.

10

And now, from high above in her room and deep in thought, she caught his inspired strains ... [Icarius' daughter] Penelope, [wary] and reserved, and down the steep stair from her chamber she descended, not alone: two of her women followed close behind.

15

That [radiant] woman, once she reached her suitors, drawing her glistening veil across her cheeks, paused now where a column propped the sturdy roof, with one of her loyal handmaids stationed either side.

20

Suddenly, dissolving in tears and bursting through the bard's inspired voice, she cried out, "Phemius! So many other songs you know to hold us spellbound, works of the gods and men that singers celebrate.

25

Sing one of those as you sit beside them here and they drink their wine in silence.

But break off this song— the unendurable song that always rends the heart inside me ... the unforgettable grief, it wounds me most of all! How I long for my husband—alive in memory, always, that great man whose fame resounds through Hellas right to the depths of Argos!"

30

"Why, mother," [poised] Telemachus put in sharply, "why deny our devoted bard the chance to entertain us any way the spirit stirs him on? Bards are not to blame— Zeus is to blame. He deals to each and every laborer on this earth whatever doom he pleases.

35

Highlight words that describe Telemachus.

What does Telemachus realize once Athena/Mentes leaves? Why?

How is Telemachus different after Mentes leaves?

Highlight words that describe Penelope/Penelope's actions.

How is Penelope acting in this passage?

Summarize Telemachus's response to his mother.

40	Why fault the bard if he sings the Argives' harsh fate? It's always the latest song, the one that echoes last in the listeners' ears, that people praise the most. Courage, mother. Harden your heart, and listen.	<p>How does Telemachus assert himself to his mother? What does he tell her to do?</p> <p>Consider how women act and how women are treated in this passage. How is it different than today?</p>
45	Odysseus was scarcely the only one, you know, whose journey home was blotted out at Troy. Others, so many others, died there too.	
50	So, mother, go back to your quarters. Tend to your own tasks, the distaff and the loom, and keep the women working hard as well. As for giving orders, men will see to that, but I most of all: I hold the reins of power in this house."	
55	Astonished, she withdrew to her own room. She took to heart the clear good sense in what her son had said. Climbing up to the lofty chamber with her women, she fell to weeping for Odysseus, her beloved husband, till watchful Athena sealed her eyes with welcome sleep.	

Citing Evidence (Book.line #s) Examples: (1.37-38)

Passage 3	Description of Episode	Character Traits	Actions and Motivations	Key Quotations that Reveal Character Traits.
Concise summary for context: What type of conflict does Telemachus deal with in this passage?		Assertions about Telemachus based on the passage: Telemachus is __.	Who or what is motivating his actions?	Provide textual evidence for your answer. <u>Copy one quote and cite correctly. Highlight and make note of others in the text.</u>
Consider Athena, Penelope, Telemachus, and the suitors				

NC 8-9: Determining Character through Conflict Excerpts 3-4

BOOK ONE : "The Telemachy"

DIRECTIONS: As you read the selected passages, highlight portions of the text that reveals the character of Telemachus as he responds to conflict. When you finish a passage, complete the activities following each excerpt. Consider the questions to help you contextualize your evidence. Use your Character Trait Resource for help with this assignment.

Passage 4 from Book One

1 But the suitors broke into uproar through the shadowed halls,
all of them lifting prayers to lie beside her, share her bed,
until discreet Telemachus took command: "You suitors
who plague my mother, you, you insolent, overweening ...
5 for this evening let us dine and take our pleasure,
no more shouting now. What a fine thing it is
to listen to such a bard as we have here—
the man sings like a god.

10 But at first light
we all march forth to assembly, take our seats
so I can give my orders and say to you straight out:
You must leave my palace! See to your feasting elsewhere,
devour your own possessions, house to house by turns.

15 But if you decide the fare is better, richer here,
destroying one man's goods and going scot-free,
all right then, carve away! But I'll cry out to the everlasting gods in hopes
that Zeus will pay you back with a vengeance—all of you
destroyed in my house while I go scot-free myself!"

20 So Telemachus declared. And they all bit their lips,
amazed the prince could speak with so much daring.

25 Eupithes' son Antinous broke their silence:
"Well, Telemachus, only the gods could teach you
to sound so high and mighty! Such brave talk.
I pray that Zeus will never make you king of Ithaca,
though your father's crown is no doubt yours by birth."

30 But cool-headed Telemachus countered firmly:
"Antinous, even though my words may offend you,
I'd be happy to take the crown if Zeus presents it.
You think that nothing worse could befall a man?
It's really not so bad to be a king. All at once
your palace grows in wealth, your honors grow as well.

35 But there are hosts of other Achaean princes, look—
young and old, crowds of them on our island here—
and any one of the lot might hold the throne,
now great Odysseus is dead ...

But I'll be lord of my own house and servants,
all that King Odysseus won for me by force."

How does Telemachus assert himself to the suitors?
Summarize what he says to the suitors.

How do the suitors react to Telemachus being assertive?

Highlight words that describe Telemachus/Telemachus's actions.

Is Odysseus dead?

Citing Evidence (Book.line #s) Examples: (1.37-38)

Passage 4	Description of Episode	Character Traits	Actions and Motivations	Key Quotations that Reveal Character Traits.
Concise summary for context: What type of conflict does Telemachus deal with in this passage?		Assertions about Telemachus based on the passage: Telemachus is__.	Who or what is motivating his actions?	Provide textual evidence for your answer. <u>Copy one quote and cite correctly. Highlight and make note of others in the text.</u>

NK 10: SUMMARY AND PARAPHRASING

Summary of Books 3-4:

The next day, Telemachus complains before all the island elders about the way his family is treated by the suitors. He especially resents the way they treat his mother. The suitors answer through Antinous, the most arrogant suitor of them all. He demands that Penelope choose one of them in marriage. She declares that she must finish weaving a funeral shroud for her husband's father, Laertes, as it is the daughter-in-law's traditional duty. In the face of this stale-mate, Telemachus decides to sail away in search of his father.

With Athena's help, he sneaks away and sails to Pylas, the land of King Nestor, who made it home after the war to his family. Telemachus asks the old soldier for news of his lost father. Nestor is full of praise for Odysseus and recognizes the same heroic qualities in Telemachus. With no real idea of Odysseus's fate, Nestor mentions the love the goddess Athena has for Odysseus and says there is a chance that his father will come home someday because of it. Telemachus remains discouraged, and Nestor sends him off to continue his search in Sparta.

There, King Menelaus and his wife, Helen, now live peacefully. Telemachus is awed at the riches and beauty of Menelaus's palace. He does not reveal his identity, and Athena is still disguised and Mentor. The old commander begins to tell war stories and, not realizing he is talking to Telemachus, he reminisces about Odysseus, declaring that no soldier went through as much as Odysseus, and how he deeply he feels Odysseus's absence, not knowing if he is alive or dead. He wonders about Odysseus's father, his wife, and his son, "whom he left as a newborn child."

Telemachus began weeping and Menelaus became quiet with uncertainty at the possibility of the stranger being Odysseus's son. Coming into to the room just then, Helen immediately recognizes Telemachus as Odysseus's son: "Never...have I seen so great a likeness in man.../this must be the son of Odysseus, Telemachus, the child he left at home that year the Achaean host made war on Troy—/daring all for the wanton I was."

They tell him that they heard that Odysseus is alive, that he is living with the nymph, Calypso, and that he longs for a way of returning home. The story then shifts back to Ithaca, where the suits intend to ambush and kill Telemachus upon his return.

Paraphrase/List what you learned:

NC II: COMPARING TEXTS EXTENSION TASK: ARISTOTLE'S *POETICS*

Objectives:

- Students will annotate the text to pay closer attention as they read and gain a closer perspective of the text.
- Students will monitor their own learning and begin analyzing the text for patterns, contrasts, and symbols as they complete multiple readings of the same text.
- Students will provide textual evidence to answer questions that compare the excerpt to paired texts.
- Students will make claims/ assertions more than one text.

Directions: Read and annotate the below quotation about *The Odyssey*. Then, consider the following questions as you prepare for a class discussion. Answer them in complete sentences. Be ready to answer with textual evidence.

In *Poetics* Aristotle makes the following claim:

...The story of the *Odyssey* can be stated briefly. A certain man is absent from home for many years; he is jealously watched by Poseidon, and left desolate. Meanwhile his home is in a wretched plight—suitors are wasting his substance and plotting against his son. At length, tempest-tost, he himself arrives; he makes certain persons acquainted with him; he attacks the suitors with his own hand, and is himself preserved while he destroys them. This is the essence of the plot; the rest is just episode.

1. What claims about *The Odyssey* does Aristotle make?
2. If *The Odyssey* is 24 books long, then why does Aristotle say that “the story of the *Odyssey* can be stated briefly”? What does he mean?
3. Consider the events of Book One. How did you react to Odysseus’s situation, Telemachus’s situation, and Penelope’s situation?
4. Why might you want to see them resolved in the “episodes” that Aristotle references?
5. Consider the information provided in the invocation, the poem “Ithaka,” and the quotation from Aristotle. In each text, the story of *The Odyssey* is captured in brief. In fact, we know how the story ends. So why do we read it? ... besides your teacher makes you.