

Essay Topics for the Final Exam

1. Telemachus coming of age - its significance within the context of the plot and its relevance to the theme.
2. Disguise in the Odyssey - changing shape. Many disguises in the epic - the sea gods, Odysseus, the gods. Disguise is a deception to arrive at truth or survival or advance your agenda.
3. Compare Domestic life and adventure - which is the more risky and dangerous. Both reveal character. Another issue: Reality vs. Fantasy.
4. Coming home. What does Homer's O's desire to return home tell about human life. Think about the exciting intrigues, adventures, offer of immortality. Does it also speak of the human mind?
5. The Revenge Ethic and justice. ^{our sense of} What role does justice play in the development of suspense? How is it foreshadowed?
6. The host and guest. What role does ~~the~~ hospitality play in the context of the plot and relevance to the theme. Importance of hospitality

7. Discuss Homer's sense of justice to the poor as seen in O.'s disguise. In what way does he represent the "ubiquitous beggar-king" - the importance of treating all men fairly, kindly, hospitably.

8. Discuss the faithfulness of Penelope and her heroic victory in the end. The climactic scene is the bloodbath, or is it the bed, representing marriage? Marriage represents social order - how is this a fitting conclusion?