

***The Odyssey* Socratic Seminar**

In preparation for our Socratic Seminar, answer the following prompt on a separate sheet of paper. Each prompt should be answered thoroughly with concrete details and analytical insights. After you elaborate on each prompt, devise at least TWO Level 2/3 questions to pose to the entire class. You will be graded on the depth of your answers and your thoughtful participation in the Socratic Seminar.

Socratic Seminar Guidelines

- Be on time in your seat when the bell rings with your binder (including *Odyssey* text) and writing utensil to take notes.
- You will discuss the questions as a class. The discussion is up to you. This is a group conversation between students. Moderate yourselves appropriately.
- *One* person talks at a time. Speak up so everyone can hear you.
- Be courteous, no jeering. Respect different thoughts and ideas. You can disagree with someone's analysis, but you should be focused on discussion rather than debating or arguing.
- Pay *strict* attention to each person as he/she speaks and listen carefully when you are waiting to speak. You will not receive points for repeating somebody else's information. You will lose points if you engage in side conversations with your neighbor, distract yourself or others around you, etc.
- You **MUST** participate **at least 3 times**. Failure to participate will result in failure of this assignment. Simply saying "I agree" will not earn you points. You must explain and elaborate on all ideas. Use concrete details from the text. You will be graded on the analysis and depth of your answers.
- After you speak 4 times, you are cut off! Share the forum with others. You will LOSE points if you dare speak a 5th time.

Rubric (5 possible points for each contribution)

- 5 – Responded to the question with in-depth analysis and concrete details that promoted more discussion**
- 4 – Responded to the question with analysis and concrete details**
- 3 – Responded to the question with some analysis and mainly summary (possibly textual evidence)**
- 2 – Responded to the question with summary or restatement; lack of in-depth analysis; no textual evidence**
- 1 – Responded to the question with a short comment that leaves the discussion hanging; no textual support**

Prep Questions

On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions thoroughly in complete sentences. Describe specific events and cite passages to support your answers.

1. Aside from being courageous, intelligent, and determined, what qualities and traits make Odysseus an admirable hero? How does this make him a hero? Think of varied, interesting, and specific adjectives!
2. What flaws does Odysseus possess? How do his flaws affect him and those around him on his journey?
3. Based on our reading of *The Odyssey*, what does ancient Greek society value? This could include behaviors, traditions, physical or mental features, etc. for the individual or group. How does Odysseus conform to those societal expectations and values? Do these values align with ours today? How does this affect your perception of Odysseus as a hero?
4. Discuss the legitimacy of the revenge that Odysseus exacts against the suitors. Why is this personal justice, sometimes called "blood vengeance," now considered both morally and legally wrong? Is violence ever a legitimate form of justice? Why or why not?
5. The word "monster" comes from the Latin verb "to demonstrate/show," suggesting that monsters reveal something to us. Which supernatural "monsters" stand out to you? What do you think they represent symbolically and metaphorically?
6. One of the fundamental components of the Hero's Journey is personal transformation. How has Odysseus's character evolved by the end of his journey? Who and/or what affects his growth the most? How?
7. Why do you think *The Odyssey* still resonates with us today? Is Odysseus and his hero's journey worthy of our modern esteem and consideration?
8. Create TWO open-ended higher-level thinking questions (answers can be found by "reading between the lines" or answers go beyond the text) considering *The Odyssey*. **Provide answers with concrete details for your own questions.**