

NOTEBOOK CHECK # 1: THE HEROIC JOURNEY AND *THE SANDLOT*

	Definition	"The Sandlot"
1 The Call	The moment the hero is called on the "mission." The hero either makes the decision to stay the journey or is forced to go on the journey.	The Call: Benny tells the group that he must get the ball back from over the fence in The Beast's yard. **Benny is the one who makes the decision.
2 Allies	Allies are the people who assist the hero during the journey. They may appear at any point during the journey and be family members, friends, guides, animals, or even gods/goddesses.	Allies: The entire baseball team/group and the voice of Babe Ruth. The Preparation: Benny changes into a new pair of shoes.
3 Preparation	The hero's preparation for the journey may be physical (ex. training, supplies, etc.), knowledge-based (ex. learning information), or psychological (ex. gaining courage).	Guardian(s) of the Threshold: Physical → the fence. Mental → fear of The Beast. Crossing the Threshold: Benny jumps over the fence and into The Beast's yard.
4 Guardian(s) of the Threshold	These are the obstacles the hero faces that interfere with or delay the start of the journey. They may be literal (ex. physical barriers or person who opposes the hero) or figurative (ex. fear and doubts).	Road of Trials: The Beast jumps over the fence and begins to chase him. The Beast chases Benny through the ally and jumps over the wall. He follows him through the movie theater, the picnic (through the cake), through the public pool, and back over the fence at the sandlot.
5 Crossing the Threshold	The actual beginning of the hero's journey where he/she crosses into a new and unfamiliar world. Often the hero realizes that this new place, the "underworld," he/she must acquire new skills or knowledge to function successfully.	The Saving Experience: Smalls helps him to lift the fence off The Beast (he gives him his strength).
6 The Road of Trials	The hero faces a series of difficult experiences that test his/her courage, strength, intelligence, determination, and wisdom in the "underworld." It may even seem that he/she has no hope or chance of getting out of a dangerous situation.	The Transformation: Benny realizes that befriending The Beast is easier than working against him.
7 The Saving Experience	Just when things are at their worst for the hero, he/she either meets a special person, has a powerful experience, or receives a special gift that "saves" him/her, enabling him/her to achieve the journey's goal.	The Return: Benny no longer sees The Beast (or his owner) as an enemy. Sharing the Gift: He learns that you should never judge someone/something by appearances and rumors.
8 The Transformation	The hero is changing, is now understanding the "underworld," and is adapting accordingly. This transformation is sometimes physical, often mental, emotional, and/or spiritual.	
9 The Return	The hero returns to the "normal world," but now sees life differently because of the journey.	
10 Sharing the Gift	The hero shares the gift of experience, knowledge, and wisdom-- gained through the journey-- with the his/her community.	

NOTEBOOK CHECK #2: WHAT MAKES A HERO?

Big Idea: What elements make up the ideal hero of a story?

Goal: You will be able to use these elements of the ideal hero to tell your own story.

Think: What qualities do heroes possess? Write for 5 minutes. Use **examples** to support your ideas.

Pair: Compare your ideas with your group. What qualities were the same? (3 minutes) . **Answers and interpretations may vary.**

Share: You will share your answers with the class. (5 minutes)

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Choose two questions that you discussed as a group and write your group's response to those questions. Be sure to write the questions in the spaces provided.

Questions: _____

Response: _____

Questions: _____

Response: . **Answers and interpretations may vary.**

NOTEBOOK CHECK #3: BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF "THE ODYSSEY"

1. Homer:

- No one knows for sure who Homer was.
- Later Greeks believed he was a blind minstrel, or **singer**, from the island of Chios.
- One scholar suggests Homer was a **woman** because home and hearth played such an important roles in his stories.
- Some scholars think there were **two** Homers. Others think he was just a **legend**.

2. The Odyssey, like other epic poems, begins **in the middle of the action** (**in medias res**).

3. Odysseus is not a typical epic hero. He is faced with:

- difficult choices**
- post-war disillusionment**
- disrespect from the people of his homeland**

4. Before the Trojan War, Odysseus:

- married the beautiful & faithful Penelope**
- had one son named Telemachus**

5. The Trojan War:

- War between **Troy** and **Mycenean Greece**.
- Lasted **10** years.

6. How did the Trojan War start?

- The goddess **Eris** was not invited to a wedding, so she became upset and decided to throw a **golden apple** into the party. On the apple, there was a note that read, "**for the fairest**."
- Because of the note on the apple, every goddess at the wedding claimed it was for her.
- The final decision of who the apple belonged to came down to **Hera**, **Aphrodite**, and **Athena**.

- d. The person deciding whom the apple belonged to was Paris, so each of the three goddesses bribed him in order to be chosen as the “fairest.”
 - e. Aphrodite promised Paris the most beautiful woman in the world, so naturally, he chose her.
 - f. Because Aphrodite promised Paris the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen was the “most beautiful woman” who was promised.
 - g. The problem with this promise was that Helen was married to Menelaus, king of Sparta.
 - h. In order to claim his prize of the most beautiful woman (Helen), Paris traveled to Sparta, got Helen (with full cooperation from her and a portion of Menelaus’ fortune).
 - i. Menelaus was furious with this, so he gathered an army (under the command of his brother Agamemnon) and traveled to Troy to overtake the city. Thus, the Trojan war began.
7. How did it end?
- a. The Spartans (Greeks) built hollow wooden horse.
 - b. They then hid the army of men inside of the horse, wheeled it to City of Troy, and left it outside the Trojan gates.
 - c. The Trojans thought it was an offering of the gods to the gods and wheeled it inside their city walls.
 - d. As the Trojans were celebrating the horse, the Spartans (Greeks) jumped out and attacked the city of Troy. At the end of the attack, the entire city of Troy was burned to the ground.
8. HUMAN CHARACTERS:
- a. Odysseus: protagonist and Epic Hero.
 - i. Fought among the other Greek heroes at Troy and now struggles to return to his kingdom in Ithaca.
 - ii. Husband of Queen Penelope and father of Prince Telemachus.
 - iii. Athena favors him by sending divine aid.
 - iv. Poseidon interrupts his journey every chance he gets.
 - b. Telemachus: Odysseus’s son.
 - i. An infant when Odysseus left for Troy, so he is about 20 years old at the beginning of the story.
 - ii. He is a natural obstacle to the suitors desperately courting his mother.
 - iii. Athena often assists him.
 - c. Agamemnon: former King of Mycenae and brother of Menelaus.
 - i. Commander of the forces at Troy.
 - ii. Odysseus encounters Agamemnon’s spirit in Hades.
 - iii. Murdered by his wife and her lover upon his return from the war.
 - iv. His son avenges his death.
 - d. Menelaus: King of Sparta, brother of Agamemnon, and husband of Helen.
 - i. He offers Telemachus assistance in his quest to find Odysseus.
 - e. Penelope: wife of Odysseus and mother of Telemachus.
 - i. Deeply misses her husband (Odysseus).
 - ii. She is easily excitable, but also clever and faithful to her husband despite his absence.
 - f. Helen: wife of Menelaus and Queen of Sparta.
 - i. Helen’s abduction from Sparta by the Trojans sparked the Trojan War.
 - ii. Most beautiful woman in the world, but blamed for allowing her own abduction and starting war.
 - iii. She offers Telemachus assistance in his quest to find his father.
9. GODS:
- a. The Olympians: Group of 12 gods who ruled after the overthrow of the Titans. All are related in some way. Named after their dwelling place → Mount Olympus.
 - b. Zeus: King of gods and men.
 - i. Zeus is occasionally depicted as weighing men’s fates in his scales.
 - ii. He sometimes helps Odysseus or permits Athena to do the same.

- c. Cronus: **father of Zeus**.
 - d. Hermes: **son of Zeus**.
 - i. God of land travel and shepherds.
 - ii. Hermes comes as a messenger to persuade Calypso let Odysseus go.
 - iii. Hermes gives Odysseus advice on how to avoid danger from Circe and how to get his men back from her → magical plant.
 - e. Apollo: **god of archery** called on by Odysseus just before he shoots the bow on his (Apollo's) festival day.
 - f. Poseidon: **god of the sea**.
 - i. As the suitors are Odysseus's mortal antagonists, Poseidon is his divine antagonist.
 - ii. He despises Odysseus for blinding his son, the Cyclops Polyphemus, and constantly hampers his journey home.
 - iii. Ironically, Poseidon is the patron of the seafaring Phaeacians, who ultimately help to return Odysseus to Ithaca.
 - g. Athena: **daughter of Zeus and goddess of wisdom, purposeful battle and the womanly arts**.
 - i. Athena assists Odysseus and Telemachus with divine powers throughout the epic, and she speaks up for them in the councils of the gods on Mount Olympus.
 - ii. She often appears in disguise as Mentor, an old friend of Odysseus.
 - h. Persephone: **daughter of Zeus, Queen of the Underworld**.
10. MONSTERS AND OTHER MYTHICAL CREATURES:
- a. Polyphemus: **son of Poseidon** One of the Cyclopes (uncivilized one-eyed giants) whose island Odysseus comes to soon after leaving Troy.
 - i. Imprisons Odysseus and his crew and tries to eat them, but Odysseus blinds him through a clever ruse and manages to escape.
 - b. Calypso: **the beautiful nymph who falls in love with Odysseus when he lands on her island – home**.
 - i. Calypso holds him prisoner there for seven years until Hermes, the messenger god, persuades her to let him go.
 - c. Circe: **the beautiful witch – goddess who transforms Odysseus's crew into swine when he lands on her island**.
 - i. With **Hermes'** help, Odysseus resists Circe's powers and then becomes her lover, living in luxury at her side for a year.
 - d. Sirens: **Dangerous and beautiful creatures,** portrayed as femmes fatales who lured nearby sailors with their enchanting music and voices to shipwreck on the rocky coast of their island.
 - i. One of the dangers that **Circe** warns Odysseus of in the sea.

NOTEBOOK CHECK #4: THE ODYSSEY READING GUIDE

Key: LE= Literary Element; RS= Reading Strategy; BI= Big Idea

PART ONE:

1. RS- What is the function of the italicized paragraphs?
 - Italics give essential background or summarize omitted sections of the epic.**
 - Significance of invocation: honors gods & creatures of interest**
 - New Coasts: italics cover 8 out of 24 books**
2. BI- How has Odysseus proved to his audience that he is determined to achieve his journey's end?
 - Even the love of two beautiful goddesses has failed to tempt him from his objective of reaching home. He is eager to return to his home and parents, whose sweetness cannot be surpassed by far lands, even those where he finds a house of gold.**
3. LE- What traits does Odysseus reveal in this episode (lines 52-53) that set him apart from his men?

In making his men return to their ships, he proves that he is a true leader, responsible for the welfare of his crew and determined to attain his goal.

4. BI- Why is Odysseus making this expedition? What does this side trip suggest about epic journeys?
He is curious to find out more about the people who live on these islands.
5. LE- What is Odysseus admitting in line 124? What do we learn about the traits of an epic hero from this decision?
Staying in the cave was a mistake. This suggests that an epic hero can have human failings, as well as the humility to acknowledge them.
6. LE- Epics include a mixture of the everyday and the supernatural. How does the Cyclops embody both of these states?
The cyclops is an enormous supernatural creature. He also carries on the domestic tasks of shepherding and milking.
7. BI- What is Odysseus suggesting about misfortunes that occur on a journey?
He is suggesting that misfortunes are orchestrated by the gods.
8. LE- What character trait does Odysseus display in line 187?
He displays cunning. He is proud of this quality, as it was the chief that he named in introducing himself to Phaeacians.
9. What hint is Odysseus dropping here (244) about the future of his journey?
Alerting his audience to the importance of the Cyclops rams in this adventure. He is also suggesting that a god may be taking an interest in the hero's journey.
10. LE- What do you think Odysseus has in mind (273-274)? What does it confirm about his character?
Odysseus almost certainly has a trick in mind. He knows his own limitations and tries to outwit his opponents when he lacks the physical strength to overcome them.
11. LE- Why did Odysseus tell the Cyclops his name was Nobody? How well has Odysseus's plan worked?
Odysseus uses a false name to deceive the cyclops neighbors into thinking that nobody has hurt him. Odysseus's plan has served him well, but he will find that he has made a powerful enemy in Poseidon, Polyphemus' father.
12. LE- What emotions does the Cyclops express in this passage (377-378)? Contrast his character with that of Odysseus.
Expresses self-pity and rage. Odysseus, in contrast, is always using his intelligence and cunning
13. LE- Why does Odysseus behave in this way (399)?
He is furious with the cyclops and proud that his trick has worked – he is also drawing attention to himself, exactly what he had told his men NOT to do a few moments earlier.
14. LE- How would you characterize Odysseus's judgment (426-428)?
It's clouded by his pride and his desire for fame. He reveals who he is and where he lives, allowing the cyclops to have him pursued and punished.
15. BI- What does this passage (462) suggest about Odysseus's return journey to Ithaca?
****FORESHADOWING****
Odysseus 's journey home will be long and difficult.
Literary elements:
Epic simile Personification Irony
Pun Epithet

Related Literature: "The Cyclops in the Ocean"

By Nikki Giovanni

Moving slowly...against time...patiently majestic...
The Cyclops...in the ocean...meets no Ulysses

Through the night...he sighs...throbbing against the shore...declaring...for the adventure

A wall of gray...gathered by a slow touch...slash and slither...through the waiting screens...separating into nodules...making my panes...accept the touch...

Not content...to watch my frightened gaze...he clamors beneath the sash...dancing to my sill...

Certain to die...when the sun...returns...

Tropical Storm Dennis
August 15-18, 1981, Florida

"The Cyclops in the Ocean" personifies Tropical Storm Dennis by comparing it to the Cyclops. What traits of the Cyclops are similar to those of a storm?

Hungry, destructive, enraged, huge, disastrous, --the eye--

List other creatures or natural phenomena that exhibit qualities of the Cyclops:

Tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, etc.

What does the comparison of a tropical storm to the Cyclops suggest? Why is the metaphor of the Cyclops appropriate for describing a tropical storm?

They are both hungry, destructive, enraged, huge, disastrous, etc

Ulysses is the Roman name of Odysseus. What do you think would have happened to the Cyclops in the Odyssey if Ulysses/Odysseus had not met him?

Perhaps Odysseus would have made it home sooner. Polyphemus's prayer to his father created an even more dire situation for Odysseus as the "road of trials" is extended.

What are screens, panes, sash and sill all related to? What do those words suggest about the point of view of the speaker?

WINDOWS: the speaker of the poem is looking out of the window at the storm

Which words in the poem are onomatopoeia (imitate sounds)? What do the sounds in the poem suggest?

Sigh, slither, slash -it intensifies the sounds of the storm

An allusion is something that is said or written that intentionally makes you think of a particular thing or person. What does the allusion of the Odyssey imply about the tropical storm?

Perhaps, the journey, the path of the storm, the value of home are referenced in the poem

NOTEBOOK CHECK #5: THE ODYSSEY READING GUIDE

PART TWO:

1. BI- Assess how Odysseus's men must be feeling at the beginning of this journey (6-7). Why might Odysseus feel differently?

The men feel delighted to be starting for home again after a year of captivity. Odysseus must feel less cheerful, knowing that there are serious hardships ahead.

2. RS- How has a change in the weather influenced the actions of the men?
Sequence: The wind has suddenly fallen still. The men stow the sail and begin to row.
3. LE- Why are the men disobeying Odysseus? What would happen if they obeyed him?
Conflict: they disobey him here in order to obey his prior order. Otherwise, their ship would be destroyed.
4. LE- What potential conflict is Odysseus trying to avoid here (95-96)? Do you think his is being wise?
Odysseus is avoiding having his men disobey orders. Students may argue that Odysseus knows his men well enough to predict how they will behave.
5. LE- The men are in conflict with both Scylla and Charybdis. Why are the two a particularly dangerous combination?
One is a monster that can kill six men at a time. The other is a whirlpool that can destroy the whole ship.
6. RS- How can you tell that Odysseus's ship has successfully navigated Scylla and Charybdis?
Odysseus and his men are rowing on, leaving behind the rocks, Scylla and Charybdis.
7. BI- What does this passage (176-178) suggest about sea journeys in Homer's time?
Unusual to sail at night
8. RS- What do the men do before mourning their dead companions?
They eat and drink.
9. RS- What sequence of events is described in lines 218-232?
The men experience a month of winstorms, during which they eat bread and drink red wine. After they eat all the barley, the men fish and hunt; they become thin. Odysseus prays to the gods for help.
10. LE- With whom, or what, are Eurylochus and the other men in conflict?
There is a conflict between what Odysseus has told them – not to kill Helios's cattle – and their own natures, which tell them to do anything to survive.
11. BI- Why would Eurylochus rather drown than starve?
He would rather die in action, attempting to reach home than starve to death.
12. LE- Why has Zeus entered the conflict?
Helios has threatened to stop shining on the earth if Odysseus and his men are not punished. Zeus is not personally angry with Odysseus but agrees to Helios's demand in order to keep the sun in the sky.
13. BI- Is Zeus's action just (338)? Why or why not?
Since the men were forewarned, Zeus's action is just or – the gods made it impossible to leave the island, thereby practically assuring the slaughter of the cattle. This manipulation is not really fair.
14. RS- Odysseus has been telling his story to the Phaeacians. When did this narrative begin?
After the Invocation, all of Parts 1 & 2 have been retelling.

Related Literature: "Siren Song"

by: Margaret Atwood

This is the one song everyone
would like to learn: the song
that is irresistible:

The song that forces men
to leap overboard in squadrons
even though they see the bleached skulls

The song nobody knows
because anybody who has heard it
is dead, and the others can't remember.

Shall I tell you the secret
and if I do, will you get me
out of this bird suit?

I don't enjoy it here
squatting on this island
looking picturesque and mythical

with these two feathery maniacs,
I don't enjoy singing
this trio, fatal and valuable.

I will tell the secret to you,
to you, only to you.
Come closer. This song

is a cry for help: Help me!
Only you, only you can,
you are unique

at last. Alas
it is a boring song
but it works every time.

Answers and interpretations may vary.

1. Who were the sirens in Greek mythology?
What effect did their song have on men?

The sirens were half female/half bird like creatures who lured men, specifically sailors to their deaths with their enticing song.

2. What is the speaker's "secret"?

The speaker's "secret is that the song is a cry for help

3. What does the speaker say about her life?

The speaker says that she does not enjoy her life. She doesn't enjoy the singing she does and that she needs help.

4. What happens to the "you" at the end?

"You" have been lured in by her "song." Captivated, just as all before you have been.

NOTEBOOK CHECK #6: THE ODYSSEY READING GUIDE

PART THREE:

1. BI- What has happened to Odysseus since he left Helios's island? What is happening now (7)?
Odysseus was pursued by the gods and helpless among strangers. Now, he is back in Ithaca, reunited with his son and befriended by a powerful goddess.
2. RS- What is the purpose of Athena's transformation of Odysseus?
Her aim is to make him a father Telemachus can be proud of.
3. LE- What do you learn about Odysseus here (42)?
Odysseus is emotional and loving.
4. LE- Why did Telemachus not believe his father at first? What are your impressions of Telemachus?
He has not seen his father since he was a little boy/a baby and did not recognize him or trust him. Telemachus has strong feelings for Odysseus, but want to shield himself against disappointment.
5. RS- Why does Homer include these details?
Homer wants to share the great emotion that Odysseus and Telemachus feel when they find each other. He uses the simile of hawks whose young have been taken. Support and intensify father son reunion.
6. BI- In what sense is Odysseus's journey far from over (100)?
Although he is home, Odysseus's journey is far from over. He now faces the huge task of ridding his halls of the suitors.
7. LE- What have you learned about Antinous so far?
Antinous is arrogant, selfish, and cruel.
8. RS- What is Odysseus's main point about Antinous's behavior?
Odysseus's main point is that Antinous is completely lacking in compassion, as evidenced by his attacking a hungry beggar.
9. LE- From what have you read so far, how would you describe Penelope?
She seems kind because she chastises Antinous for his treatment of the beggar. Homer describes her for his treatment of the beggar. Homer describes her as gentle. From her speech, she has strong opinions about the suitors.
10. RS- Why is this a particularly difficult interview for Odysseus (109)?
The interview is difficult because he is happy to be home but is not ready to reveal his identity to Penelope. He is not willing to answer her questions about his parents because that would let her know his true identity.
11. LE- What characteristic do Odysseus and Penelope share?
They are both crafty, using their wits to defeat their opponents.
12. BI- Why was this the perfect time for Odysseus to arrive home?
Penelope has run out of time. A few days later, she might have remarried.
13. RS- How does the inclusion of this line (25) among the taunts and jeers of the suitors relate to the main idea presented in this scene?
The suitors are blinded by pride. The inclusion of this line indicates that they are beginning to see that this man might present a threat. Because of their sense of

superiority over the disguised Odysseus, they have failed to notice his strength and intelligence.

14. LE- To what is Homer comparing Odysseus in lines 28-34? What do these comparisons contribute to his characterization?

Odysseus is compared to a poet and musician. He handles the bow like a musical instrument. These comparisons emphasize his skill – almost an artistic talent – at warfare.

15. BI- Do you think that Odysseus's long journey is finally over? Why or why not?

Odysseus's journey – a long, exhausting and trying adventure designed by gods to test him has ended but his struggles have not.

NOTEBOOK CHECK #7: PENELOPE

Related Literature: "An Ancient Gesture" by Edna St. Vincent Millay

Like Penelope in the *Odyssey*, Edna St. Vincent Millay held off many suitors, preferring her independence and writing career to marriage and domestic life. Through her poetry and her life, she came to represent the rebellious, independent, youthful spirit of the 1920s. At age thirty-one, however, she married a man who supported her dedication to her writing and assumed all domestic responsibilities in order to give her time for her literary pursuits.

I thought, as I wiped my eyes on the corner of my apron:
Penelope did this too.
And more than once: you can't keep weaving all day
And undoing it all through the night;
Your arms get tired, and the back of your neck gets tight;
And along towards morning, when you think it will never be light,
And your husband has been gone, and you don't know where, for years.
Suddenly you burst into tears;
There is simply nothing else to do.

And I thought, as I wiped my eyes on the corner of my apron:
This is an ancient gesture, authentic, antique,
In the very best tradition, classic, Greek;
Ulysses did this too.
But only as a gesture,—a gesture which implied
To the assembled throng that he was much too moved to speak.
He learned it from Penelope...
Penelope, who really cried.

- Why does it say that Ulysses' tears were "only as a gesture"?

It is possible that Ulysses, like so many times before, was making a show, looking for fame, and perhaps he wasn't really crying when he arrived home.

- What is the "assembled throng" referring to?

The group of native Achaeans and the people of Ithaca who assemble to see the great Odysseus arrived home

- What does the last line mean?

The last line could be interpreted as the recognition that it is only Penelope who knew and understood true sorrow as she was the only one who really cried.

- **Quickwrite:** What is the theme of the poem? How does Millay use the story of Penelope and Odysseus to convey a modern theme?

Answers and interpretations may vary. Possible themes include individuality, feminism, the concept of sorrow, etc.

Paraphrase the poem:

Answers and interpretations may vary.

-
- What do you think Penelope values? Explain. **Answers and interpretations may vary. Possible values of Penelope include her home, her family, the things she takes care of, her responsibilities.**
-

Related Literature: "Penelope" by Dorothy Parker

In the pathway of the sun,
In the footsteps of the breeze,
Where the world and the sky are one,

He shall ride the silver seas.
He shall cut the glittering wave.
I shall sit at home, and rock;
Rise, to heed a neighbor's knock;
Brew my tea, and snip my thread;
Bleach the linen for my bed.
They will call him brave.

Penelope to Ulysses By Meredith Schwartz

Like a spider committing suicide
each night I unweave the web of my day.
I have no peace.
About me the insistent buzz of flies
drones louder every day.
I am starving.
I watch them, always, unblinking stare.
All my dwindling will
I use in not moving, not trying, unweaving.
I pull in my empty nets
eating myself, waiting.

Answers and interpretations may vary.

1. Who is "he" referred to in lines 1-5? How is he described?

Odysseus. He is described as an adventurous sailor exploring the world.

2. How does the speaker describe her life?

The speaker sits home and assumes all of the domestic responsibilities while waiting for "him" to return from his adventures.

3. On what aspects of Penelope's life does this poem focus?

Her life as Odysseus's wife.

4. What does Penelope symbolize?

The concept of a good and faithful wife (who may be a little resentful)

Answers and interpretations may vary.

1. What does Penelope literally unweave in the Odyssey?

A funeral shroud that she is making for her father-in-law Laertes.

2. Who are the "flies"?

The flies are the suitors

3. Why is the fly metaphor appropriate?

Flies, like the suitors, buzz around annoyingly. A person does not want flies around just like Penelope doesn't want the suitors around.

4. What does it mean that Penelope is "starving" and "eating myself"?

Starving may be waiting for Odysseus. Perhaps the stress and worry consumes her.

NOTEBOOK CHECK #8: THE ODYSSEY READING GUIDE

Key: LE= Literary Element; RS= Reading Strategy; BI= Big Idea

PART FOUR:

1. LE- How would you describe the level of suspense at this point in the story? Explain.
Most students will agree that Odysseus will take his bloody revenge on the suitors. Any suspense lies in exactly when and how this will happen.
2. RS- What has caused Odysseus to decide to kill the suitors? Explain.
He is enraged by what has gone on in his own house while he was away.
****Why does Eurymachus request that Odysseus spare the other suitors? Antinous, the leader, was dead.**
3. RS- The suitors vastly outnumber Odysseus and Telemachus. Why are they so alarmed?
The suitors have seen Odysseus's extraordinary skill with the bow, they have no armor or heavy weapons themselves and Odysseus and Telemachus are blocking the door.
4. LE- Is tension rising or falling at this point? Explain.
This is the high point of tension in the scene. Negotiation has failed. The battle has begun in earnest, the characters must kill or be killed.
5. BI- How is Telemachus responding to the challenges of the fight?
He is aiding Odysseus as an equal in battle.
6. LE- How does Odysseus perform as a fighter?
He is superior to all his opponents.
**** if the outcome of the battle is a foregone conclusion, is the battle truly climatic? Intensity? Action packed**
7. RS- What causes and effects did you notice in this scene (141)?
Eurymachus encourages the suitors to fight, then he draws his sword and hurls himself toward Odysseus. That action causes Odysseus to shoot an arrow at Eurymachus. Amphinomus runs toward Odysseus causing Odysseus to throw a spear at him. That action causes Telemachus to help his father. After Telemachus brings the weapons, they kill all the suitors.
8. BI- Why does Penelope hesitate to accept her husband?
She still suspects that the stranger might be a trick played by the gods. She is not ready to let her guard down and accept him.
9. RS- What does Odysseus fear will be the effect of his slaughter of the suitors?
He fears that he must once again leave home when the people of Ithaca come to avenge the loss of the suitors.
10. LE- How is Homer introducing rising tension?
A battle is looming between Odysseus and the families and friends of the slaughtered suitors.
11. RS- What is Athena doing? Why?
Athena is having Odysseus bathed and clothed in hopes that Penelope might finally recognize him as the husband she last saw twenty years earlier.
12. LE- How does Odysseus respond to Penelope's suggestion that the maid move the bed outside the bedchamber?

Odysseus is outraged that Penelope would have his bed moved outside their bed chamber. Climatic scene: He is home yet his home and wife are still being denied him.

13. BI- How has Penelope's tone shifted? Why?

She is passionate now where before she had been guarded; she expresses joy and relief from long suffering.

14. BI- What do you think the future holds for Odysseus, Penelope, and Telemachus? What roles might his past journeys play in Odysseus's future? Do you believe he is home for good?

At last his homecoming is complete.

NOTEBOOK CHECK #9: ITHACA CLOSE READING

Close Reading

Read the following passage, marking the text and making notes as needed.

"When someone reads the Odyssey he/she should pay close attention to the symbolic meaning of this poem. Firstly, Ithaca should **not be considered as being just an island, the home of Odysseus**. Reaching the island of Ithaca is Odysseus' **optimal achievement**. That is what keeps him alive while he faces all these dangers. Therefore, Ithaca acts symbolically as a **representation of the achievement of the goals people set in their lives**. Consequently, the quest for reaching Ithaca stops being just a fantastic voyage full of extraordinary and unrealistic incidents. Instead, it can now be thought **as everybody's quest in their lives to make their dreams come true**. If you think this goes too far, then you should take a look at the poem "Ithaca" by Konstantinos Kavafis (C.P. Cavafy) (1863-1933), which is one of the greatest modern Greek poets, is found in our page. Kavafis is considered to be one of the greatest Greek poets and "Ithaca" is perhaps his most famous poem. By reading this poem, it becomes perfectly clear that this island should not be seen as a specific island.

Ithaca is just a small and insignificant island out of the so many Greek islands. The question then becomes why didn't Homer choose a better, larger, and fancier island for his poem? The answer, the way we view it, is straight forward. **Ithaca does not really matter in the literal way**. Instead, it is the idea of Ithaca that is important to Homer and the Greeks in general. Ithaca exists for each and everyone of us, but in a different way.

All of us set some goals that they want to achieve in their lifetime and they strive hard throughout their lives to reach these goals. As a result, **we can all relate to Odysseus' quest to reach Ithaca as being our own journey in our lives to reach the goals we set before we start this long voyage**. Just like Odysseus, we will all face difficulties and problems while we try to achieve what we want. The question now becomes whether we have the strength and patience to remain focused on **achieving these goals when we come face to face with the extreme difficulties of life, just like Odysseus finally made it and reached Ithaca**.

However, what happens if we do not achieve all our goals when we finally reach our "Ithaca"? Should we be considered unsuccessful? Should we feel that we have failed in our lives? The answer is definitely not. The reason for this is that the objective is not to actually achieve all the goals that you set before you started your journey in life. **The actual objective lies in making the voyage itself, and to face all those difficulties; to overcome the difficulties in life and gain experience while you are out making the voyage**. Therefore, by the time you reach your "Ithaca" you will already have gained so much from the trip that it does not matter so much whether you reached your goals or not. For instance, Odysseus' goal was definitely not to lose his men; but, he did. That does not mean that he was unsuccessful, even though he failed in achieving all his goals."

What is the most important line in this passage? Explain.

Answers will vary

Discuss this with a partner/group. Note other important lines from the passage.

Answers will vary

Ithaka by C.P. Cavafy

As you set out for Ithaka
hope the voyage is a long one,
full of adventure, full of discovery.
Laistrygonians and Cyclops,
angry Poseidon—don't be afraid of them:
you'll never find things like that on your way
as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,
as long as a rare excitement
stirs your spirit and your body.
Laistrygonians and Cyclops,
wild Poseidon—you won't encounter them
unless you bring them along inside your soul,
unless your soul sets them up in front of you.

Hope the voyage is a long one.
May there be many a summer morning when,
with what pleasure, what joy,
you come into harbors seen for the first time;
may you stop at Phoenician trading stations
to buy fine things,
mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
sensual perfume of every kind—
as many sensual perfumes as you can;
and may you visit many Egyptian cities
to gather stores of knowledge from their scholars.

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you are destined for.
But do not hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so you are old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
Without her you would not have set out.
She has nothing left to give you now.

And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you will have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.

Read, Cover, Retell, Check

1. Read the poem to yourself. Circle any confusing words.
2. Read the poem together and define confusing words (in the margin)
3. Next, one person should cover the poem; then, retell what the poem is about while the other person re-reads and checks.

Answers and interpretations may vary.

Cavafy uses many symbols in this poem. Symbols are objects, places, or experiences that represent something other than what they mean literally.

What symbols do you find in the poem? Underline them.
What does "Ithaka" stand for (what does it symbolize)?

Ithaka represents the journey, the voyage, the goals along the way.

What do "Laistrygonians, Cyclops, angry Poseidon" seem to symbolize? What do you think they stand for? Make margin notes about what they stand for

Enemies, obstacles, adversities

Where does the poem suggest that the "Laistrygonians, Cyclops, angry Poseidon" come from?

Enemies, obstacles, and adversities may come from within an individual's soul.

How do they contribute to the overall message of the poem?

Enemies, obstacles, and adversities happen, but the experience that one gains from facing them is where the value lies.

NOTEBOOK CHECK #10: HERO JOURNEY PHASES IN *THE ODYSSEY*

Applied to The Odyssey ***INCLUDE PAGE NUMBERS!***	
1	The Call Called to fight in the Trojan War (he resists). Called to leave Calypso's island to go home to Ithaca (volunteers for call).
2	Allies Athena, Hermes, his crew of men, Telemachus
3	Preparation Uses his intelligence and cunning to plan his attack.
4	Guardian(s) of the Threshold Calypso does not want Odysseus to leave her island after he was there for 7 years. Poseidon tries to destroy Odysseus' journey home when he is in the sea.
5	Crossing the Threshold Hermes helps Odysseus to leave Calypso's island. Odysseus finds various ways to avoid and overcome the obstacles Poseidon tries to put in his way.
6	The Road of Trials Calypso, Lotus eaters, Polyphemus (Cyclops), Laestregonians, Circe, Sirens, Scylla, Charybdis, Aeolus' bag of winds, Helios' island/cattle, and Pheacia.
7	The Saving Experience The Phaeacians bring him home to Ithaca.
8	The Transformation Athena transforms Odysseus into an old beggar to disguise his true identity in order to defeat the suitors.
9	The Return Odysseus uses his warfare skills to defeat the suitors in order to regain his position as king of Ithaca.
10	Sharing the Gift Odysseus is once again in his rightful position as king of Ithaca. He is home and reunited with Penelope and Telemachus.