

Group Member Names: Cal Moultime, Gabriel Raney, Ethan Thuma

English Literature - Analytical Literature Review

TITLE:

AUTHOR:

Historical context - what do you know about the author's time (political, social, philosophical) that is relevant to the text and its theme?

Homer was alive somewhere between the 12th and 8th centuries B.C. Probably a very devout man.

Setting - location, region, country, historical period - how does setting influence characterization? How does setting influence theme?

Set in the greater Mediterranean, near Greece. Takes place in many different islands and kingdoms, which all have different views on how to deal with Odysseus and Telemachus.

Author Biography - what do you know about the author that gives information about the text, its themes, and its significance?

We know the story must be at least slightly different from the original version, because it was an oral account of the story. Homer lived in a time before they recorded stories and events, so the story was only ever spoken.

Inciting Incident - what character and/or events cause the conflict? How does the inciting incident inform theme?

There are two major conflicts in the text. The first is Odysseus' inability to return to his homeland, and the inciting incident was when he angered the gods by blinding the Cyclops Polythemus. The second conflict is the suitors in Ithaca that try to usurp Odysseus' possessions and wife. There isn't so much of an inciting incident as a slow overturning of power in Ithaca, so when everyone generally believes Odysseus is dead, the suitors take the possessions.

Internal Conflict - What characters struggle internally? How and why? Does this conflict inform theme?

Telemachus, Penelope, and Odysseus all have internal struggles. Telemachus' comes from his lack of certainty that his father is indeed dead. This struggle leads him to go on a search for his possibly dead father Odysseus.

Penelope's struggle stems from her inability to accept the seemingly definite death of her husband. She gives up hope for his return and is prepared to live the rest of her life in despair.

External Conflict- Between whom/what? Why? How does conflict inform theme?

The most prevalent external conflict is between Odysseus and the Suitors. The suitors abused and usurped his property and his wife Penelope, and Odysseus was not having any of that.

Odysseus' struggle is from being away from home for so long. He misses his son and his wife, and knows he must return.

Symbolism - abstract or concrete? What are they? How does symbolism inform theme?

Odysseus's bow is a big symbol of not only of odysseus's Strength but also the suitors weakness none of them are able to string the bow.

Characterization - Name & Analysis of major characters. how and what type - flat/round? Static/dynamic? Stock? Protagonist/Antagonist/Foil? Motivation? Attitudes? How does characterization inform theme?

Odysseus's
Round
Dynamic
Protagonist
Trying to get home
Attitude is positive
He is a hero

Telemachus
Round
Dynamic
Protagonist
Trying to find Father
Attitude floats from positive to negative quite often.
He is the son of a hero and helps save the day in the end.

Tone - How is the author's and/or speaker's attitude evident in the text?

The tone was suspenseful do to the theme of small victories throughout the text. Many times we are witness to odysseus having a problem and having solve them.

Figurative language and literary devices - what devices are most prominent? What do they mean? How does the meaning relate to the theme?

The biggest one was in medias res because that is how the story starts.

Epic Similes describing unlike things and showing the similarities

Universal application - What specific themes are relevant to life/the human condition beyond the pages of the text? Answer "so what?" for the themes—why does this text matter?

It shows how determination can beat trying times. Odysseus's determination leads to the success of getting home.

