

Core D Comp & Lit | *The Odyssey* Annotation Guide

Key Characters (note their attributes)

- Odysseus
- Telemachus
- Penelope
- Note other characters who seem to play a larger role in Odysseus' journey
- Mark key gods/goddesses, including their character traits (e.g., Athena, Poseidon, Zeus, etc.)

Greek Worldview

- Xenia (Greek hospitality)
- Relationships between humans and the gods
- Hubris of a hero

Epic Elements

- Legendary Hero
- Supernatural Strength
- Epic Journey of Hero's Self-Discovery
- Moral Code
- Vast Setting
- Omniscient Narrator
- Supernatural Forces

Themes

- Mental strength vs. physical strength
- Fate vs. free will
- The temptations of man and their relation to suffering
- Loyalty
- Man's identity

Literary Terms

- Allusion
- Deus ex machina
- Digression
- Epithet
- Epic simile
- In medias res
- Irony (Dramatic, Situational, Verbal)