

The *Illiad* is the primary model for the \_\_\_\_\_ . The *Odyssey* is the model for the epic of the \_\_\_\_\_. The theme of the journey has been basic in \_\_\_\_\_ – it is found in \_\_\_\_\_, in such novels as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and *The Hobbit*. The theme is also found in such movies as “The Wizard of Oz”, \_\_\_\_\_”, “The Lion King”, and \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, the *Odyssey* has been the more widely read of Homer’s two great stories.

In Homer’s day, \_\_\_\_\_ were thought of as a special class of aristocrats. They were placed somewhere between the \_\_\_\_\_ and ordinary \_\_\_\_\_. Heroes experienced \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but they were always sure of themselves, always “on top of the world.”

\_\_\_\_\_, the subject of Homer’s *The Odyssey*, is different. He is a hero in \_\_\_\_\_. We can relate to Odysseus because we share with him a sense of being somehow lost in a world of difficult choices. Like Odysseus, we have to cope with unfair authority figures. Like him, we have to work hard to get what we want. Odysseus was a great \_\_\_\_\_ in the war, but his \_\_\_\_\_ is not of interest to the \_\_\_\_\_ that populate the world of his wanderings. Even the people of his home island, \_\_\_\_\_, seem to lack respect for him.

In the years before the Great War, Odysseus had married the beautiful and ever-faithful \_\_\_\_\_. They had one son, \_\_\_\_\_, who was still a toddler when Odysseus was called by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to join them in the war against Troy. Odysseus preferred not to go to war, but ultimately was forced to go. What did Odysseus do to try to get out of going to war?

Once in Troy, Odysseus performed extremely well as a soldier and commander. It was he, for example, who thought of the famous \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ trick that would lead to the downfall of \_\_\_\_\_. What was the \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ trick that Odysseus thought of to use against Troy?

Instead of beginning at the beginning with Odysseus' departure from \_\_\_\_\_, the story, \_\_\_\_\_, begins with his son, Telemachus. Telemachus is now twenty years old. He is threatened by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ swarming about his own home, pressuring his mother to \_\_\_\_\_ one of them. These men are bent on \_\_\_\_\_ Telemachus of his \_\_\_\_\_. Meanwhile, we hear that his father is \_\_\_\_\_ on an \_\_\_\_\_, longing to find a way to get back to his wife, child, and home. It is \_\_\_\_\_ years since Odysseus sailed from Troy, \_\_\_\_\_ years since he left Ithaca to fight in Troy.

Myths are stories that use \_\_\_\_\_ to express ideas about life that cannot be expressed easily in \_\_\_\_\_ terms. Myths are essentially \_\_\_\_\_ because they are concerned with the relationship between \_\_\_\_\_ and the unknown or \_\_\_\_\_ realm.

As you will see, Homer is always concerned with the relationship between humans and \_\_\_\_\_. Homer is religious: For him, the \_\_\_\_\_ control things. Athena, the goddess of \_\_\_\_\_, is always at the side of Odysseus. This is appropriate because Odysseus is known for his \_\_\_\_\_ abilities. In Homer's stories, a god can be an *alter ego*, a reflection of a hero's \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ qualities. The god who works against Odysseus is \_\_\_\_\_, the god of the \_\_\_\_\_, who is known for \_\_\_\_\_ and a certain brutishness. Odysseus himself can be violent and cruel, just as Poseidon is.