Odyssey: Choices

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| * Discuss the similarities between the journey of Odysseus and events that have occurred in your own life. Think about the different choices Odysseus is required to make during his journey.
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| * Discuss the women in Homer's work. What role do women play in the Odyssey , and how do you think they represent the women of ancient Greece?
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| * Explain how the struggles of Odysseus to reach Ithaca are a contest between Poseidon and Athena as well.
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| * Select an event from popular culture in which a hero or heroine is placed in a struggle. Examples from movies include Shane , Schindler's List , Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade , Saving Private Ryan , Patch Adams , and Alien . Describe how the director or writer makes you feel toward the hero or heroine and his or her opponents. Compare and contrast this to the characters in the Odyssey .
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| * The ancient Greeks truly believed in caring for strangers. Traditional voices in our culture have attempted to continue that tradition by advising all to care for strangers in need and teaching that such assistance is particularly pleasing to God. The media is quick to praise good Samaritans, and civic groups still award medals to humanitarians. But what forces in our time threaten to extinguish this tradition of kindness to and care for strangers? What can we do to care for strangers in need?
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| * Revenge as a means of obtaining justice was more acceptable in Homer's society than in our modern society, which has a formidable criminal justice system. Even so, Homer's idea of revenge bears qualification. Define the nature of revenge in the Odyssey that suggests under what conditions it is an acceptable means of justice.
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