

English 9
The Odyssey
Book 5 Questions

Mrs. Walsh will answer Bella's question from yesterday's class! It turns out to be interesting and important thematically.

1. Infer from the information in Book 5 the nuances and limits of the gods' power. Think of what Poseidon knows and doesn't know; think of what decision Calypso makes and why; and think of what Odysseus chooses.
2. Zeus flat-out tells us that "Odysseus shall return and pay the traitors back" (l. 28). What is the effect of our knowing this information ahead of some of the characters' knowing it?
3. How is Calypso depicted? Is she a sympathetic character?
4. What is the role of *xenia* in this Book? Consider Calypso-Hermes and Calypso-Odysseus.
5. Explain the role of Ino's magic scarf. What does this episode add to our ideas about Odysseus?
6. Find a selection of epic similes, especially toward the end of the book. How do they work? What do they mean?

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