



## Odyssey 1.213-444: Resources for further study and discussion

### Section summaries

This table should be used to help you read and summarize the text in small sections. Read each section carefully, then summarize it in a sentence and pick out a couple of Greek words or phrases which sum up the section.

Lines	Summary	Greek quotations	Study questions
213-229	Telemachus tells Athena-Mentes that he is Odysseus's son; she asks about the suitors.	<i>νῦν δ' ὄς ἀποτιμότατος γένητο θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων, / τοῦ μ' ἔκ φασι γενέσθαι (219)</i> <i>νεμεσσήσαιτό κεν ἀνήρ / αἴσχεα πόλλ' ὀρόων, ὄς τις πινυτός γε μετέλθοι. (228-9)</i>	What does Telemachus' answer tell us about his state of mind?  Why do you think Athena-Mentes asks Telemachus what is happening in the palace? (Is it really a question? What does she suggest is happening?)
230-251			What does Telemachus think has happened to his father?  How does his speech prepare him for Athena-Mentes' advice in the following section?
252-305			Why does Athena-Mentes send Telemachus on this journey?  What would Telemachus do if he found out that Odysseus was definitely dead?  Why does she mention Orestes?



306-324			<p>What do we learn about Telemachus's character from his speech at 306-313?</p> <p>Why does Telemachus and Athena-Mentes discuss giving each other gifts?</p> <p>Why does it matter that Telemachus realizes Athena-Mentes was actually a god?</p>
325-344			<p>Why do you think Phemius sings this particular song?</p> <p>What is your first impression of Penelope on her entrance?</p> <p>Why does Phemius's song upset Penelope?</p>
345-364			<p>What does Telemachus say to his mother after she asks the bard to change his song?</p> <p>What explanation does he give for his impatience with his mother?</p> <p>How does she react to his instruction?</p>
365-382			<p>Do you think there is anything suggestive in the narrator's report of the suitors' behaviour after Penelope leaves? How would you stage lines 365-367 in a modern dramatical version?</p> <p>What impression do we get of Telemachus's character from his speech here? Why do you think he speaks so freely in front of the suitors?</p>
383-398			<p>What does Antinous reply to Telemachus, and what is the response?</p> <p>Can you cut down and re-phrase this exchange in clear and blunt modern English?</p>



399-420			<p>How does Eurymachus's tone differ from Antinous's?</p> <p>Why is Eurymachus so eager to learn about the 'stranger'?</p> <p>Do you detect any difference in tone when Telemachus talks to Eurymachus?</p>
421-444			<p>Why do we get some much detail about Eurycleia?</p> <p>Similarly, why is Telemachus's chamber described in so much detail?</p> <p>In what ways is this a fitting end to Book 1?</p>