

## **Odyssey “Themes” Essay**

In “Four Approaches to the Odyssey”, Henry Power proposes that Homer’s *Odyssey* can be read through four distinct lenses: it is (1) a poem about memory; (2) a poem about the collision of cultures; (3) a poem about an unusual and compelling hero, Odysseus; and (4) a poem with a domestic focus, concerned with home (and hospitality), and the desire to return home. To this we might add (5) that it is a poem about stories and storytelling, as we have seen in the other articles we’ve read.

Choose a particular episode from portions of *The Odyssey* you’ve read thusfar. Briefly summarize the episode (perhaps 3-5 sentences), and show how any two of these five themes are inflected in this episode by writing a paragraph about each theme. For example, you might choose to write about how Odysseus’ encounter with Polyphemus illustrates the ways in which *The Odyssey* describes the collision of cultures and the cunning of the hero Odysseus; alternatively, you might show how Odysseus’ desire to leave Calypso’s island invokes hospitality, memory, and ideas of “home”.

Your essay should contain an introduction, two body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Shoot for ~1.5-2 typed, double-spaced pages.