**Odyssey – Class Discussion Items – Books 13-24**

**Book 13 Questions:**
1. What archetypes did you notice as Odysseus was leaving Scheria, traveling across the sea, and arriving at Ithaca?
2. What epic similes are included in Book 13, and what is the significance of the comparisons being made?
3. What is ironic in Book 13?
4. What happens to the Phaeacians? Is this a fulfillment of the prophecy or not?
5. Considering the Hero’s Journey, where is Odysseus now that he has landed in Ithaca?
6. Who/what is disguised in Book 13? Why are they disguised?
7. Who is lying? Why do they lie?
8. Considering how they are presented in Book 13, how do the Greeks feel about deception and lying?

**Books 17-18 Questions:**
1. Discuss the conversation between Telemachus and Penelope. What does he reveal about his travels? Note the epic simile (p. 358 – 359)
2. What is the nature of Theoclymenus’ prophecy (p. 359)
3. Describe how Penelope has been characterized thus far. Provide at least two specific examples
4. Describe the interaction between Odysseus and Melanthius. Why is this a “test” for Odysseus?
5. How do we continue to see the motif of deception/disguise evolve? Give at least one specific example.
6. Describe the scene with Argos. What are some of the details provided and why? In what ways is Argos a reflection of the state of affairs in Ithaca? How is this another trial for Odysseus?
8. Overall, who has proven to be loyal (and why?); who has proven to be disloyal, (and why?)

**Book 18-19 Concepts:**
*for these Books each group was assigned a particular page range to discuss in terms of the concepts below. Specific questions were not issued*
- Motifs: temptation, loyalty/disloyalty, testing, disguise, fate
- Foreshadowing, irony, characterization of Odysseus, Telemachus, Penelope, suitors, & servants (Melantho & Eurycleia)
- Hubris, metis, epithets, epic similes, narrative drift

**Books 23 Questions:**
1. Even though the suitors are dead, as Book 23 opens what prevents Odysseus from crossing the Monomyth’s return threshold into the Known World?
2. For what reasons is Penelope suspicious that it is indeed Odysseus who has killed the suitors?
3. While Penelope delays, what metis does Odysseus employ to keep from rousing suspicion about the slaughter?
4. How does Penelope test Odysseus to make sure he is who he claims to be?
5. As Odysseus describes it, in what way is the bed a metaphor?
6. What archetypal role does Penelope fulfill?
7. At what point does Odysseus cross the Return Threshold?
8. What is the significance of the final prophecy that Odysseus reveals to Penelope?
9. How does Athena intervene on Odysseus’ behalf during the reunion with Penelope
**Books 24 Questions:**

1. How do the contrasting stories of Achilles and Agamemnon in the Underworld reinforce the Greek concept of the need to honor the dead?
2. According to Agamemnon, what will be the source of Penelope’s *kleos*?
3. Before reuniting, how does Odysseus test his father? For what possible purpose might he do so?
4. How does Odysseus finally convince Laertes that he is indeed Odysseus?
5. Even after rousing his father, what remains unsettled in the kingdom?
6. Explain the arguments on both sides in the conflict among the townspeople.
7. What recurring theme is evidenced in the discussion among the townspeople about how to address the slaughter?
8. Explain the fitting parallelism in the killing of Eupithes.
9. According to the steps of the Monomyth, what provides Odysseus the Freedom to Live?
10. As the epic ends, in what way is Odysseus Master of Two Worlds?