

Greek myth and modern cultural story presentation

Tuomas, Alexander & Saku

The Odyssey

Myth:

- Odysseus's ten-year journey to Ithaca after the fall of Troy
- Faces mythical creatures and the god of the sea Poseidon

Stories inspired by The Odyssey

- The Hobbit
- The Penelopiad
- The Time Traveler's wife

Pertinent aspects

My marriage:

- Marriage is for having babies who will continue your rule
- Odysseus wins Penelope's hand by cheating in a race

Waiting:

- Penelope receives updates from the war, but once the war was over she heard nothing
- She gazed at the harbour every day

Characters of The Odyssey

Major characters: Odysseus - main character

Penelope - main character's wife

Other notable: Telemachus - main character's son

Athena - helper of the main character's family (a goddess)

Poseidon - enemy of the main character (a god)

And a whole lot of others

Themes of the Odyssey

Perseverance

Very obvious, the reason why Odysseus even tries to get back to Ithaca. Possibly the most important part of the plot.

Loyalty

The reason why Penelope stays on Odysseus' side of things. Also a way to keep things in Ithaca interesting. A part of the climax.

Vengeance

A reason why Odysseus' journey was so painstaking and dangerous. The climax of the poem.

The setting of the Odyssey

Time period: 13th - 12th century BC. Just after the Trojan War.

The seas

The place where most of the story happens. Odysseus' part of the poem.

Ithaca

The place where Penelope's part and the end of the book take place in.

Other minor or brief places: Calypso's island, Circe's island, island of the cyclops, the underworld, and other.

Message of The Odyssey

Do not give up or let go (main message)

Similar to perseverance and loyalty. Seen in all the “good guys” and the “winners” of the poem.

Do not try to marry someone's wife (minor message)

A spark of vengeance. What all Penelope’s suitors (“bad guys”) tried to do. Suitors ended up “losing.”

Do not boast for glory's sake (minor message)

The thing which enraged Poseidon. Made Odysseus’ journey harder for no good reason. Could’ve been avoided.

Characters of The Penelopiad

My marriage: Penelope - main character

King Icarus - Penelope's father (insignificant)

Penelope's maids

Helen - Penelope's cousin

Menelaus - Helen's husband

Tyndareus - Helen's father, aided Odysseus

Penelope's suitors

Odysseus - One of the suitors and the winner of the contest

Waiting: Penelope - main character

Other characters mentioned by Penelope, including Odysseus.

Themes of The Penelopiad

My marriage:

Acceptance

As the chapter progresses, Penelope's feelings and attitude of her marriage change.

Waiting:

Patience

Penelope keeps on waiting, even though she can barely stand it.

Loyalty

One reason for Penelope's patience.

Love

Another reason for her patience. A thing that keeps Penelope's head together.

Setting of The Penelopiad

My marriage: Told in two different perspectives and time periods.

Assumably the underworld

Penelope narrates the first part from a ghost's perspective in modern time.

Penelope's room

The second part is told before Penelope got married from her perspective.

Waiting:

Odysseus' house in Ithaca

Penelope is in the house of Odysseus during the entire short chapter.

Messages of The Penelopiad

My marriage:

Do not judge

The contestant who everyone made fun of ended up winning the contest.

Waiting:

Do not give up

Similar to The Odyssey. Penelope's patience and faith in her husband will get rewarded.

why has the more modern creator has chosen to tell a story using the ancient myth?

- It is famous.
- The author may have thought the original myth was incomplete or lacking in some respects.
- The author may have thought it was a good base to write from, instead of starting from scratch.

evaluate why the more modern creator has made changes to the story/characters/message

- To change things that the modern author thought wrong.
- To Expand and complete the original story.
- Flesh out the characters of the original myth.
- To bring them to the center of attention, for a change.