

Name _____



Telemachus's Journey

At the beginning of *The Odyssey*, Telemachus is just a young prince living in Ithaca. He is the son of Odysseus, the great warrior who left to fight in the Trojan War and has not returned in twenty years. Without his father, Telemachus feels lost and powerless. His home is filled with suitors who want to marry his mother,

Penelope, and take over his father's throne. They disrespect his family and waste their food, but Telemachus feels too weak to stop them.

However, Telemachus's journey of growth begins when the goddess Athena visits him. She tells him that it is time to become a man and take action. Inspired by her words, he decides to leave Ithaca and search for news about his father. This is his first brave step toward becoming a strong leader. He visits King Nestor and King Menelaus, important Greek leaders, and learns more about Odysseus's fate. Through these travels, he starts to gain confidence and wisdom.

When Telemachus returns home, he is no longer the timid boy he once was. He helps his father, who has finally returned in disguise, plan the defeat of the suitors. In the final battle, Telemachus fights bravely alongside Odysseus, proving that he has grown into a true warrior and leader.

Telemachus's transformation symbolizes the journey from childhood to adulthood. At first, he doubts himself and does not believe he has the power to change his situation. But through experience, guidance, and courage, he learns to stand up for his family and kingdom. His growth is just as important as Odysseus's journey, showing that becoming a hero is not only about strength but also about wisdom and bravery.