

The odyssey explication



In this passage we see a lot of conflict between Odysseus and Achilles, the heroes muse on the differences between the two worlds they now inhabit, and each finds the grass greener on the other side.

“You lord it over the dead in all your power.” (256-552). In that quote Odysseus is telling Achilles how he is having a good time ruling over all the dead. Also how his world is better than him. “By god I’d rather slave on earth for another man.” (256-556).

Achilles responded to Odysseus, and basically says that he would rather be alive and be a slave, then be dead and rule over everybody. “No winning words about death to me, shining Odysseus!” (256-555). Now we see Achilles build anger towards Odysseus, and start to build up a conflict. Whenever people argue there is usually some exaggeration.

In order for one to win the argument someone has to look better or even sound better. “There’s not a man in the world more blest than you.” (256-548). Odysseus is exaggerating, because he says “in the world.” First of all Odysseus does not know every human being. Second of all in the Greek mythologies Zeus is considered the most blessed. “I’d make my fury and my hands, invincible hands.” (256-571). In that sentences Achilles exaggerates by saying “invincible.” Achilles is considered a godlike hero, but he isn’t invincible.

Flashbacks are used when a story is being told, and or something is remembered. “Time was, when you were alive, we Argives honored you as a god.” (256-550). Odysseus remembers this while talking to Achilles and

trying to tell him how great of a hero he is. "the man I was, comrade in arms to help my father as once I helped our armies, killing the best fighters.

(256-568). This is a response to Odysseus, because Achilles remembers how he helps the armies, and killing the most skilled enemies. Imagery is needed in any piece of literature to describe an event or a thing. "Dirt-poor tenant man" (256-557).

Achilles is describing the man that he would slave for on earth. This is significant because Achilles is one of the best known heroes in Greek mythology. "Breathless dead" (256-558). Again the man that Achilles would slave for is described to Odysseus. "Shining Odysseus" (256-555).

Achilles refers to Odysseus as "shining" because Odysseus is in the valley of Death, and Odysseus is shining compared to all the paled dead people. This is also one reason why Achilles wants to be alive. Personification is used to make your writing more interesting and to add more excitement. "I reassured the ghost, but he broke out, protesting." (256-554). Homer gives Achilles ghost the ability to talk back to Odysseus.

This makes the reader interested in what the ghost has to say. Being able to connect your literature to history is a big thing, because it gives your piece meaning, this process is also called allusion. "Tell me of noble Peleus" (256-562). Peleus is a well know and one of the bravest heroes in Greek mythology. "Killing the best fighters Troy could field" (256-569).

In this quotation Achilles is making a reference to the Trojan War. Achilles also lost his life in that war, and he is mad at Odysseus for surviving the war, because Achilles was a better fighter than him.