*Odyssey* Close Reading Directions

How to perform a close reading:

1. Read.

2. Consider the major themes or patterns that emerge.

3. Pick one 10 line passage that deals with a theme or pattern that interests you.

4. Annotate the passage.

a. Look up anything you don’t understand (allusions or words).

b. Remember the passage exists in time, and times change (consider the social/historical context).

c. Assume there is a reason for everything. Examine:

-Repetition (contradictions or similarities)

-Syntax and Diction

-Symbolism

-Etc.

5. What does the passage appear to be saying about the theme/pattern you are analyzing? Connect to overarching themes in the novel—attempt to write a thesis regarding the significance of the passage.

Sample:

