



The Odyssey

Odysseus as Epic Hero

An epic hero is a larger-than-life character in an epic poem who is admired for great achievements or deeds and who embodies important societal values and ideals.

Odysseus is the protagonist of *The Odyssey*. But does he possess the characteristics of an epic hero?

Review the concept web that defines the characteristics of an epic hero. Then fill in the web with examples of Odysseus's characteristics that support the idea that he is an epic hero. Try to find more than one supporting detail for each characteristic.

Once you have completed the concept web, discuss the following questions with a partner:

Does Odysseus meet the criteria for an epic hero? Why or why not?

If it is true that Odysseus is an epic hero and embodies his society's values and ideals, what can you infer about society in ancient Greece?

Have you read other stories with epic heroes? If so, how does Odysseus compare?

RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.9-10.6 Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

SL.9-10.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

