

LESSON PLAN SUGGESTIONS -- ODYSSEY

Be sure students get the following ideas and understandings from the book:

1. The ODYSSEY as epic

What is an epic?

What are epic characteristics?

Especially, what is the nature of the epic hero?

What is the purpose of most epics?

Compare and contrast the epic as a form with other genres to point up differences.

2. Odysseus as universal hero. (Not the Golden Mean??)

What is the character of Odysseus?

3. Universals in the Odyssey: wisdom; uncontrolled excess

4. The ODYSSEY as folklore; cf. with other cultures and their folklore.

5. Examine Odysseus in the ILIAD. Compare and contrast Odysseus in the two epics.

6. Odysseus as the universal human being and not the Greek ideal.

(Or is he an example of the Golden Mean ideal in the comic (i.e. ironic, objective, realistic, man-in-society, average type, sense. Cf. Sewall's THE DARK VOYAGE AND THE GOLDEN MEAN)

7. Greek living customs (hospitality, valor, warfare, boastfulness, etc.)

8. What is the attitude of the narrator in the ODYSSEY? (i.e. comic, tragic (Mode?))

SCHEDULE:

Wednesday: Discuss ODYSSEY

Friday: Discuss Plato's APOLOGY AND CRITO (Either one, or both? We asked students to read either. Do we need some discussion questions? ) These are on reserve in paper back copies of Plato's DIALOGUES.

Monday: Aristotle (Ethics or Politics excerpt or both? Students received both but may have lost or mislaid copies. If so we have about 20 on hand, in the library. Enough? or should Leitha run off more before your classes tomorrow?