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| Thematic Focus: Fathers and Sons |
| **Speech of Athena to Telemachus**   * The *Odyssey*, Book 1, lines 230-237 * Translator: Stanley Lombardo |
| Note: In this scene, Athena appears to Telemachus while she is in disguise as an old man.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  I have come  Because they say your father has returned,  But now I see the gods have knocked him off course.  He’s not dead, though, not godlike Odysseus,  No way in the world….  But now, tell me this, and I want the truth:  Tall as you are, are you Odysseus’ son?  You bear a striking resemblance to him…  Telemachus took a deep breath and said:  “You want the truth, and I will give it to you.  My mother says that Odysseus is my father.  I don’t know this myself. No one witnesses  His own begetting. If I had my way, I’d be the son  Of a man fortunate enough to grow old at home.  But it’s the man with the most dismal fate of all  They say I was born from – since you want to know.” |