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| Motif: Identity and Names – The Recognition Scene |
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| * In the recognition scene, how or in what way does Odysseus “come back” to himself throughout this text? * To what degree is Homer suggesting that our identity is dependent on others’ recognition of who we are? * In book 16, Odysseus and Telemachus finally meet. How does this scene, the long-awaited moment, work as drama? Why does Athena make the recognition harder for Telemachus by making Odysseus appear to be god-like? Is this just a dramatic delaying device, Athena’s whim, or is there some symbolic or emotional truth bound up in the illusion? |
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| Book 16, pp. 244-249 |