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| Key Motif: Xenia |
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| |  | | --- | | **Prereading Questions**  Please read the question carefully and write down your answer with explanations and examples. Your answers should typically be about a half a page in development.  Throughout human history, groups have defined some people (usually themselves) as “civilized” and other groups (usually unfamiliar groups or people whose ethnicity, race, religion, or appearance was unusual to them) as “savage.” In other words, “we” = civilized; “they” = savage.  1. What are the traits or qualities you yourself define as “civilized”?  2. What are traits or qualities we think of as “savage”? |   **Lecture Points – The Sacred Law of Xenia**   * Xenia – Gives us the word “xenophobe,” one who is afraid of or who hates foreigners * Xenia referred to the sacred bond between hosts and guests * Xenia was a survival issue – there were no Motel 6s in ancient Greece. * RULES: You had to provide hospitality without asking who your guest was or what business he or she was on. * A visitor could be a god in disguise, checking on his “employees” * Obviously, you didn’t take advantage of your host. * You treated him and his family and possessions with respect. * XENIA IS CRUCIAL TO A SENSE OF US vs. THEM in the *Odyssey*. * The “civilized” characters observe rules of xenia; the bad ones don’t. * To violate xenia was to incur the wrath of the gods   **Focus passage: Antinous and Telemachus**  Read the scene between Athena and Telemachus that follows. Then answer the “Reader Questions,” referring to the text to support your claim.  1. In what way does Homer use this speech to make us hate Antinous?  2. Who is Antinous’ audience? What values does he share with them?  3. In what way does the text make us understand that the suitors’ have violated *xenia*?  4. What is Antinous’ purpose in delivering this speech? What is his measurable, demonstrable goal here?  5. How does Antinous go about trying to achieve his goal? |