Jonathan Quang

Period 8

HW #54

Odysseus shows emotions of overwhelming bliss when he reunites with his son. This emotion is expressed when Homer writes, "'No, I [Odysseus] and your [Telemachus'] father...with those words Odysseus kissed his son and the tears streamed down his cheeks and wet the ground," (Book 16 Lines 212-216). This show of familial love and affection is in stark contrast to the Odysseus the readers have seen so far. He did not seem to care much about cheating on his wife, Penelope, but he is brought to tears when he reunites with his son. Odysseus does really care for at least some people. Telemachus' response to this also reveals something about his character. His reaction is one that shows disbelief. Homer states, "Telemachus broke out wild with disbelief, "No, youre not Odysseus! Not my father! Just some spirit spellbinding me now -- to make me ache with sorrow all the more..." (Book 16 Lines 218-221). Expressing disbelief like this shows rational thinking in Telemachus in the face overwhelming emotions. Gods had been interfering with Telemachus and his family for so long, it seems reasonable to assume that this was another form of torture sent by the gods.