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Period 8  
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HW#47

The themes that can be identified in each story in book 8 are glory and being subject to the power of the gods with some relation to Odysseus. The first story about Odysseus and Achilles features a great battle between two of the bravest men, however the result of this battle was preordained by the gods. The story with Aphrodite cheating on Hephateus with Ares was a story of vengeful glory, and literally subject to the power of the gods. The story is relatable to Odysseus cheating on his wife with Calypso. The story about Troy was glorious for the Greece, and also featured Odysseus being empowered by Athena.

Demodocus might have told entirely different stories had he known Odysseus was present. The king would not be in such a good mood realizing that his guest was crying because of the stories Demodocus told. Homer writes in Book 8, "Hear me (Alcinous), my lords and captains of Phaeacia! Let Demodocus rest his ringing lyre now - this song he sings can hardly please us all. Ever since our meal began and the stirring bard launched his song, our guest has never paused in his tears and throbbing sorrow," (208). To disrupt the guest's mood could be seen as a big offence on Alcinous' hospitality. It would be unwise for a blind man to get on the king's bad side on an island with no real escape.

Odysseus might want to hide his identity because the reason he ended up in Phaecia was because Poseidon. The Phaecian people heavily associate themselves with Poseidon even though they acknowledge that he has punished their people by putting dirt around a port. The Phaecian people are also avid seamen. If others realize that Odysseus was in Phaecia because of punishment by Poseidon, then the people of Phaecia might not be too inclined to help Odysseus out.