

GRACELYN

Key Plot Events

- Telemachus summons all Achaeans to a full assembly
 - He complains of the suitors and tells them to go home
 - He is then challenged by Antinous who says it's Penelope's fault
 - He boldly claims that Zeus is on his side
- Eagles are sent by Zeus
 - Halitherses interprets it as the death of the suitors and the return of Odysseus
 - Eurymachus ridicules the old warrior
- Assembly is dismissed
- Telemachus prepares for his journey
 - Euryycleia helps him gather supplies
 - Athena impersonates Telemachus and rallies crewmen
- Telemachus leaves for his journey

ARTHUR

Key Moments in Telemachus' growth(1)

- Confronting the suitors about their unacceptable behaviour
- Telemachus formulating his own judgments about situations rather than simply listening to those around him
- Telemachus acting independently of his mother
 - Telemachus holds the first assembly since Odysseus left for Trojan War
 - Telemachus breaks down in tears at the beginning of the assembly when he lists the horrendous actions of the suitors. Also says that he is "a boy inept at battle" and is unable to fend the suitors off
 - Shows he is still somewhat a boy
 - Considers Antinous' argument and shows why he is logically right
 - Maturity and respect
 - He holds assembly and states how he is going to take an active role(Asks for 20 crew members to help him) rather than a passive one(sit at home and do nothing), which is what Antinous wants him to do.
 - Shows he is growing up
 - Telemachus reports his progress and asks for help from Athena
 - Maturity in the sense that he understands his limits and where others can aid him

The moments highlight a Rite of Passage for Telemachus, signifying his transition between boyhood to manhood, in which he goes from being a passive observer to playing an active role and having a larger say in determining his future

Telemachus must understand and discover what or who defines him; whether he is Telemachus, the babe Odysseus left in arms at home, or Telemachus, the modest man he has grown into, searching for his father, and who can think for himself, consider the benefits and drawbacks of those he wishes to listen to rather than those who order him to do their bidding, and his choice of following Athena's plan.

Supporting Quotations:

"Isn't it quite enough that you, my mother's suitors, / have ravaged it all, my very best, these many years, / while I was still a boy? But now that I'm full-grown / and can hear the truth from others, absorb it too- / now, yes, the anger seethes inside me"(346 - 350).

This quote points out how Telemachus is fully grown, can act for himself in how he denies eating with Antinous, and can consider the benefits and drawbacks of others' ideas.

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