## Activity 6:

1. Identify features of Atwood’s life that influenced her purpose in retelling Homer’s Odyssey.
2. Identify the ways in which Atwood reinterprets Penelope’s character

Atwood seeks to shine a spotlight on the often-overlooked perspective of Penelope, turning the character into an empowered and distinctively individualistic person.

1. Explain why Atwood chose to focus her story on Penelope and not on her more famous cousin Helen.

Rather than focusing the story on a “much more dramatic subject” like Helen, Atwood takes Penelope’s characterisation in the original story—neglected due to her lack of accomplishments or narrative significance—in turn formulating a fresh and creative context from which a captivating narrative can take place.

1. Analyse, based on your reading in the article, how Atwood’s retelling is informed by cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and belief on gender.