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Ms. Riley

English Honors 9, 1st Hour

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FQ Argus #5

In the epic poem, Odyssey, by Homer, Penelope is evasive towards the suitors; Odysseus feels vengeful toward them, and they both feel resentment toward them. First, Penelope is evasive towards the suitors. Upon telling the beggar about how she tells the suitors that she will marry one of them after she finishes her weaving, Penelope says that she weaves on the loom every day, “but every night by torchlight I unwove it” (1333). In theory, this prevents her from ever finishing the weaving; her intention behind this is that she does not feel romantically attracted to any of them, and wants to evade them until her husband returns from Troy. Odysseus, however, is vengeful towards the suitors. When one of the suitors throws a chair at the disguised Odysseus, Odysseus has “thoughts of bloody work” (1232). Odysseus clearly entertains the idea of becoming physically violent with the suitors, while Penelope feels avoidant. Finally, Penelope and Odysseus both share the emotion of resentment towards all of these suitors. Whilst Odysseus is speaking to Penelope, she explains that the suitors “are here to court me, against my wish; and they consume this house” (1315-1316). Even while Penelope avoids the suitors, like Odysseus, she possesses disdain for them. Penelope is evasive towards the suitors, while Odysseus feels vengeful toward them; they both feel resentment toward them.