

The Odyssey

Homer

Why does Ulysses design a plan that assumes his future self cannot be trusted?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Ulysses designs a plan against his future self
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION Book XII

START Therefore, take me and bind me to the crosspiece half way up the mast; END Then my men took the wax from their ears and unbound me.

PASSAGE ID	sec-ody-02
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THE MOVE

Build safeguards against predictable future behavior

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Ulysses knows the Sirens will change what he wants in the moment, so he creates rules in advance that his future self cannot cancel. The plan treats predictable loss of judgment as a problem to design around.

MARK

Underline what Ulysses predicts he will want once he hears the Sirens. Circle the restraints he orders his men to use. Star the instruction that tells the crew what to do if he later demands the opposite.

NOTICE

- What does Ulysses know about his future behavior before the temptation begins?
- Why is giving an order in advance not enough unless he also removes his future power to reverse it?

- What makes this a safeguard against himself rather than simply a defense against the Sirens?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Ulysses design a plan that assumes his future self cannot be trusted? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Ulysses design a plan that assumes his future self cannot be trusted? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Ulysses assumes temptation will temporarily make his future judgment unreliable, so he limits his future power in advance. The plan succeeds because he gives the crew instructions that remain binding even if he later demands the opposite.
EVIDENCE	Use his prediction of his own future behavior, the restraints, and the order that the crew must ignore later pleas.
WATCH FOR	Do not answer only that Ulysses is cautious. The key idea is pre-commitment against a predictable future self.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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Why does Ulysses design a plan that assumes his future self cannot be trusted?

START ANCHOR	Therefore, take me and bind me to the crosspiece half way up the mast;
END ANCHOR	Then my men took the wax from their ears and unbound me.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline what Ulysses predicts he will want once he hears the Sirens. Circle the restraints he orders his men to use.

Star the instruction that tells the crew what to do if he later demands the opposite.

2. NOTICE - What does Ulysses know about his future behavior before the temptation begins? Why is giving an order in advance not enough unless he also removes his future power to reverse it? What makes this a safeguard against himself rather than simply a defense against the Sirens?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Ulysses design a plan that assumes his future self cannot be trusted?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.