

The Odyssey

Homer

Why is the bed a better test of identity than Ulysses' appearance?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Penelope's bed test
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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 XXIII

START “My dear,” answered Penelope, “I have no wish to set myself up, nor to depreciate you; END hard of belief though I have been I can mistrust no longer.”

PASSAGE ID	sec-ody-04
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THE MOVE

Verify identity through private shared knowledge

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Penelope's bed test uses knowledge only the real husband should possess: how the bed was built around a living olive tree. Appearance can be imitated or changed; shared private history is much harder to counterfeit.

MARK

Underline Penelope's apparently casual instruction about moving the bed. Circle Ulysses' detailed response about how the bed was constructed. Star the detail that proves the knowledge is private and shared.

NOTICE

- Why would appearance be an unreliable test after years of absence and disguise?
- What does the bed reveal that a stranger could not easily know?

- How does Ulysses' emotional response become part of the verification?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is the bed a better test of identity than Ulysses' appearance? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why is the bed a better test of identity than Ulysses' appearance? 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	The bed is a better identity test because its construction is private knowledge shared by Penelope and Ulysses. Appearance can change or be disguised; detailed memory of the immovable bed is much harder to counterfeit.
EVIDENCE	Use Penelope's instruction, Ulysses' reaction, and his precise explanation of the bed's construction.
WATCH FOR	Do not say emotion alone proves identity. The test works because the emotional response is attached to specific shared knowledge.
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.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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Why is the bed a better test of identity than Ulysses' appearance?

START ANCHOR	"My dear," answered Penelope, "I have no wish to set myself up, nor to depreciate you;
END ANCHOR	hard of belief though I have been I can mistrust no longer."

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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 Penelope's apparently casual instruction about moving the bed. Circle Ulysses' detailed response about how the bed was constructed. Star the detail that proves the knowledge is private and shared.
2. **NOTICE** - Why would appearance be an unreliable test after years of absence and disguise? What does the bed reveal that a stranger could not easily know? How does Ulysses' emotional response become part of the verification?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why is the bed a better test of identity than Ulysses' appearance?
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.