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## Odyssey Map Test

The overarching conflict as well as theme in the Odyssey is the challenging idea of fate versus choice. Was what happened to Odysseus predetermined by fate, or were the events a result of the choices made by characters? <sup>great thesis</sup>

The gods and goddesses, specifically Athena, were present within the entire story and were often interjecting into the lives of the characters. This is why the orange group of cards is spread over the entire map. The gods were always present, and sometimes made choices that strongly affected the storyline of the epic.

The shipmates of Odysseus fell in between fate and choices as well as in between loyalty and disloyalty. It was fated that the shipmates would soon travel to an island where Lord Helios' cattle grazed, and they would be tempted to eat them. Because of this, and the choice of eating the cattle, the shipmates' loyalty to Odysseus was broken and they paid the price with their lives. The courage of the shipmates turned to cowardice as their stomachs grumbled for food and they eventually made the choice to deceive Odysseus. explain significance of items

Throughout the second part of the Odyssey, there is a strong loyalty between Odysseus and his wife, Penelope. Penelope longs for

the moment when her husband will come home and she has been faithful to him by creating tricks to throw off suitors, only in search of money and power. Odysseus and Penelope are overjoyed to be reunited after twenty years apart, though not before some question from Penelope regarding the identity of Odysseus.

Odysseus and his son, Telemachus, both show their intellectual strength as they seek revenge against the many suitors that were present in their home. The courage they show as they trick the suitors, and eventually attack and kill them, not only portrays the loyalty found within the family, but also the choices made by the characters that significantly affect the story.

Fate and choices work together in this epic to create a storyline of not only deception and disloyalty, but also the courage and intellectual strength that comes with a great leader. A great leader that one can find in Odysseus, a "man skilled in all ways of contending." (line 2)

excellent conclusion