

Read Books XXI-XXIV of Homer's *Odyssey* and answer the following questions<sup>1</sup>:

Book Twenty-One

1. What are the instructions that Odysseus gives before the contest of the bow (lines 235-241)?

2. Describe the contest of the bow. What does Penelope promise the winner of the contest of the bow? What does Penelope promise the beggar if he can string the bow?

Book Twenty-Two

1. How does Athene get involved in the battle (lines 205-299)?

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<sup>1</sup> Some of the material from the questions comes from Wes Callihan, *A Study Guide To The Great Books: Homer's Odyssey* (Lancaster PA: Veritas Press, 2009) 80-95. Material also comes from Peter J. Leithart, *Heroes of the City of Man* (Moscow ID: Canon Press, 1999) 178-179.

2. Why does Odysseus punish the servants so harshly (lines 440-476)? What does Odysseus consider the crime of the servants to be?

Book Twenty-Three

1. Why does Odysseus want the singer to play dancing songs (lines 130-140)?

2. By what sign does Penelope finally recognize Odysseus (lines 108-110)?

3. What reason does Penelope give in lines 210-212 for their long separation?

Book Twenty-Four

1. Compare lines 191-202 with lines 441-456 in Book 11. How has the soul of Agamemnon changed the mind of Odysseus about Penelope?

2. How does Laertes prove Odysseus' identity?

3. What is your opinion about the ending of the *Odyssey*?

*The Odyssey* Study Questions  
Books XXI-XXIV

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