***The Odyssey* Name:**

**Close Reading – Book 22: Death in the Great Hall Date:**

**DIRECTIONS: Read and annotate the following passages. Use the questions to guide your annotations.**

What is being juxtaposed (contrasted) within the imagery in this passage? Why is it appropriate?

He drew to his fist the cruel head of an arrow for Antinous

just as the young man leaned to lift his beautiful drinking cup,

embossed, two-handled, golden: the cup was in his fingers:

10 the wine was even at his lips: and did he dream of death?

How could he? In that revelry amid his throng of friends

who would imagine a single foe—though a strong foe indeed—

could dare to bring death’s pain on him and darkness on his

eyes?

Odysseus’ arrow hit him under the chin

15 and punched up to the feathers through his throat.

Backward and down he went, letting the winecup fall

from his shocked hand. Like pipes his nostrils jetted

crimson runnels, a river of mortal red,

and one last kick upset his table

20 knocking the bread and meat to soak in dusty blood.

What reasons does Odysseus give for killing the suitors?

“You yellow dogs, you thought I’d never make it

35 home from the land of Troy. You took my house to plunder,

twisted my maids to serve your beds. You dared

bid for my wife while I was still alive.

Contempt was all you had for the gods who rule wide heaven,

contempt for what men say of you hereafter.

40 Your last hour has come. You die in blood.”

How does Eurymachus try to convince Odysseus not to harm the suitors? What is his motivation and what does this say about him as a character?

45 “If you are Odysseus of Ithaca come back,

all that you say these men have done is true.

Rash actions, many here, more in the countryside.

But here he lies, the man who caused them all.

Antinous was the ringleader; he whipped us on

50 to do these things. He cared less for a marriage

than for the power Cronion has denied him

as king of Ithaca. For that

he tried to trap your son and would have killed him.

He is dead now and has his portion. Spare

55 your own people. As for ourselves, we’ll make

restitution of wine and meat consumed,

and add, each one, a tithe of twenty oxen

with gifts of bronze and gold to warm your heart.

Meanwhile we cannot blame you for your anger.”

**Answer the following question and use evidence from the text to support.**

Telemachus is the son of Odysseus. But how does he resemble Odysseus during the battle in the Great Hall? How are his actions similar to Odysseus’?