***The Odyssey* Name:**

**Close Reading – Book 23: The Trunk of the Olive Tree Date:**

**DIRECTIONS: Read and annotate the following passage. It is an epic simile, so annotate for the comparisons being made between Odysseus and the swimmer.**

Now from his breast into his eyes the ache

of longing mounted, and he wept at last,

his dear wife, clear and faithful, in his arms,

longed for

as the sunwarmed earth is longed for by a swimmer

85 spent in rough water where his ship went down

under Poseidon’s blows, gale winds and tons of sea.

Few men can keep alive through a big surf

to crawl, clotted with brine, on kindly beaches

in joy, in joy, knowing the abyss behind:

90 and so she too rejoiced, her gaze upon her husband,

her white arms round him pressed as though forever

Why is this epic simile an appropriate way to end the *Odyssey*? Explain using lines from the above passage.