

The Odyssey Books 3-4: Telemachus's Voyage

1. Why does Telemachus hesitate to approach Nestor at the beginning of Book 3 AND what does this reveal about his character?
2. What were the people of Pylos doing when Telemachus and his party arrive AND what kind of welcome do they receive?
3. What indicates to Nestor that Telemachus is clearly the son of Ulysses?
4. Nestor explains how the Achaean's got separated after the fighting at Troy. Summarize what went wrong.
5. What gifts of hospitality does Nestor bestow upon Telemachus and his group before they leave?
6. What ever-present backstory about his brother does Menelaus repeat when first they encounter him in Book 4?
7. Who is first to recognize Telemachus as Ulysses' son, AND how can they tell?
8. When Telemachus explains that the suitors have taken over his house, Menelaus replies, "these cowards would usurp a brave man's bed? A hind might as well lay her new born young in the lair of a lion, and then go off to feed in the forest or in some grassy dell: the lion when he comes back to his lair will make short work with the pair of them". What is he communicating through this metaphor about the situation on Ithaca? (Hint: a hind is a deer)
9. Who is Proteus and what does he reveal?
10. What reaction do the suitors have to learning that Telemachus has gone on a voyage to find his father AND what do they plan to do about him?