

Student Essay on Gods in "The Odyssey"

Gods in "The Odyssey" by Homer

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Contents

Student Essay on Gods in "The Odyssey"	1
Contents.....	2
Essay.....	3

Essay

Homer positions the gods in the *Odyssey* as supporters for their human subjects. The *Odyssey* chronicles Odysseus' long journey home. Along his journey home, Odysseus encounters many different hardships. Throughout his journey, the gods help Odysseus find his way home. Athena begins by petitioning the gods during council to force Calypso to release Odysseus home. Athena has now given Odysseus an opportunity to continue on with his journey home. After he begins to set sail, Odysseus faces Poseidon who completely destroys Odysseus ship. As Odysseus is struggling to survive against a divine enemy, another god feels pity for Odysseus. Ino presents Odysseus with a scarf that will allow Odysseus to make it through the night. The story continues with much divine intervention taking on different roles that range from a little girl, to Mentor, Odysseus' friend. As Mentor, in the battle with the suitors, Athena offers encouragement, and defense for Odysseus and Telemachus. Throughout Odysseus' long journey home, Athena, along with other gods, have guided and protected Odysseus, up until the last battle when she takes the form of mentor and brings peace about the people. This divine intervention has guided Odysseus home and long after.