Mini Essay- The Odyssey

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Literature can be very interesting and not to mention very informing. It can tell about what it’s like to live in a certain place, what the people believe in, and many other things. Greek literature is an example of this, and a common theme, is heroes. In Homers, The Odyssey, heroes are a big part of Odysseus’s story. Heroes where an important part of Greek culture, and there were specific traits that they looked for in these heroes.

Greek heroes were always in search of kleos. Homer showed Odysseus looking for kleos after he stabbed the eye of the Cyclopes; “Cyclopes-if any man on the face of the earth should ask who blinded you, shamed you so- say Odysseus, raider of cities…” (9.559) Although this was a big mistake Odysseus wanted people to know that it was him who was brave enough to stab the eye off the Cyclopes. Kleos is so important to the Greek heroes and without it, they feel worthless, and unknown.

The absolute most important thing that was looked for in a hero was their skills. This person must be so good at a skill that they are better at it than anyone else; “

“Great Odysseus who excels all men in wisdom and offerings too.” (1.79)