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The Odyssey

A character arc is the transformation or an inner journey of a character over the course of a story. The Odyssey has many characters that change in this story. A main character that goes through change is Odysseus. Odysseus, a character in the Odyssey, by Homer develops and changes both his pride and patience through his adventures home.

Odysseus is a hero of wit and logic. Winning is his inspiration, and Odysseus' battles are won through deceit and quick thinking. An example is the escape from the Cyclops in book 9 and his manipulation of the word 'nobody'. Odysseus obliged, "My name is Nobody ... This is what my father and mother and my friends have always called me. He is set apart by his brain and quick wit. Odysseus is often prideful but as he goes through his journey throughout the story he evolves to someone more patient than who he was earlier in the story. Odysseus's greatest fault was his pride which first gets him in trouble at the beginning of the book. When he refuses to give credit to the gods after defeating Troy, this angers the gods which leads to his trip home being extended by almost twenty years.

When Telemachus and Odysseus meet at Eumaeus' hut. Odysseus, magically transformed by Athena from beggar to king, is recognized as father by his son. Athena disguises Odysseus as a beggar to allow him to see how Ithaca has fared without him. It will allow him to learn everything he needs to learn before he can get revenge on the suitors.

When Odysseus is disguised as a beggar, he allowed and endured the abuse from the suitors which shows the patience he's developed.

At the beginning of his adventures, Odysseus committed an act of hubris against the gods and consciously made choices that would keep him away from his family for an extended period of time at sea, and punished him with what turned out to be a ten year journey home to Ithaca. Facing obstacles throughout the story, he embodied the traits of a hero in his culture, such as loyalty to his family, respect for his men. In the end Odysseus developed and transformed as an inspiring hero. Because a hero goes through a journey which transforms their characters. A journey can be an experience people go through, an inner journey that transforms themselves and others around them.