

**from the Odyssey, Book 21: The Test of the Bow/
Book 22: Death in the Great Hall/
Book 23: The Trunk of the Olive Tree (page 941)**

Active Reading SkillBuilder

Identifying Conflicts

Conflict is a basic component of an epic. Epic plots center around the way various conflicts are faced, evaded, or resolved. To identify conflict, ask:

- What opposing persons or forces, external or internal, are in conflict?
- How would you describe the conflict?
- Is the conflict resolved? If so, how?
- What insights does the conflict reveal?

While reading the story of Odysseus' homecoming, identify three specific examples of conflict. For each conflict, write down the answers to the questions raised above.

<i>Book 21</i>	<i>2 Book 22</i> Conflicts in the Odyssey	<i>Book 23</i>
What or who is in conflict? <i>The Suitors + Penelope</i>	What or who is in conflict? <i>The Suitors + Odysseus</i>	What or who is in conflict? <i>Penelope + Odysseus</i>
Description of conflict	Description of conflict	Description of conflict
How is conflict resolved?	How is conflict resolved?	How is conflict resolved?
Insights revealed	Insights revealed	Insights revealed