

1) Read the poem through and say:

- who is speaking and to whom
- how old he is
- where he is
- what he is setting out on

2) Now read the text again, this time paying attention to the development of the argument. Summarize what Ulysses says and feels following the guidelines on the left. For each point consider also Tennyson's vocabulary indicating which words and phrases, in particular, reveal in the hero's traits and attitudes. The first point has been written for you.

lacks

Life on Ithaca (lines 2-5)	It is uncivilised and... Negative adjectives such as idol, aged convey Ulysses's total dissatisfaction with life on Ithaca
His past life	
View of present and future (19-32)	
Attitude to Telemachus (33-44)	
Address to his mariners (45-70)	

3a) How is Ulysses portrayed in the poem?

- To answer the question, consider:
- His present situation
- The contrast with Telemachus
- What he can be taken to be symbolic of
- Whether he differs from the picture we usually associate with the hero of the Odyssey

3a) What is the poet's attitude to Ulysses and Telemachus? With whom does it side?

4) The poem was composed when Tennyson was still suffering for the death of his dearest friend, A. Hallam, in 1883. Does the poem reflect a sense of loss?

5) As you will have realised the hero's feelings are communicated through a careful choice of words.

What observations can you make about the meter and the music of the poem and the relationship with its meaning?