1. Read the poem through and say:

* Ulysses is speaking and he is referring to the reader or to someone who is listening the poetry. The reader may be an ideal one, and so one who knows about mythology and Ulysses’ story
* His age is not explicit, but Ulysses is in the last part of his life and he remembers all his actions, watching landscapes around him.
* He is in Ithaca and he has just released his wife Penelope
* He is setting out on his life, his actions and all his memories. He is preparing for a new travel and he analyses the possible arrive of death



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| 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 (lines 6-18) | Ulysses says he passed good a bad moments during his travel, but he always fought with passion. |
| View of present and future (19-32) | Ulysses thinks about his past actions and his latest moment until death will reach him. |
| Attitude to Telemachus (33-44) | Ulysses leaves his land to his son Telemachus saying he must maintain calm and order |
| Address to his mariners (45-70) | Ulysses, in referment on his mariners, says that they have always been faithful and have accompanied him against any threat. |

1. A) Ulysses is portrayed as an old man, who is watching his land, Ithaca, and is thinking about all his great actions and memories. Thanks to his thoughts, the reader understands that Ulysses is a brave and strong man, who faced up bad and good moments, but who always could pass them. Analysing the contrast with Telemachus, the reader notes also that Ulysses is a strict person, who did not accept son’s behaviours because they do not provide Ithaca development. The figure of Ulysses differs from the picture we usually associate with the hero of the Odyssey. Indeed, he is driven by the desire to reach the unexplored, to overcome any limit of knowledge and so he represents a cultural icon symbol of the romantic struggle against the conformity of the Middle classes.

B) The poet supports Ulysses way of thinking, and so he criticizes Telemachus one. Indeed, with Ulysses voice, he says that Telemachus is still irreproachable and he must change his behaviours if he wants to governate Ithaca.

1. Tennyson wrote Ulysses shortly after the death of his young friend Arthur Henry Hallam. As a result, the poetry provides an emotional journey done by the poet, but it does not reflect a sense of loss. Indeed, the Ulysses claims to be ready to go on fighting the awareness that death is the end of everything. This is so the need of poet: thanks to this concept he wants to overcome this moment of sadness.
2. This poem is written as a dramatic monologue: the entire poem is spoken by a single character, whose identity is revealed by his own words. The lines are in blank verse, or unrhymed iambic pentameter, which serves to impart a fluid and natural quality to Ulysses' speech. The poem is divided into four paragraph-like sections, each of which comprises a distinct thematic unit of the poem.