

from the Odyssey, Part 2 by Homer
Vocabulary Builder

Word List

bemusing contempt dissemble equity incredulity maudlin

A. DIRECTIONS: *In each of the following items, think about the meaning of the italicized word and then answer the question.*

1. From whom would you reasonably expect *equity*—a judge or a thief?

2. Would you treat someone whom you admire with *contempt*? Why or why not?

3. Does being *maudlin* involve your intelligence or your emotions? Explain your answer.

4. Are the intentions of people who *dissemble* likely to be good or bad?

5. What kind of story or report would inspire *incredulity* in you? Explain.

6. Would you react to a long, *bemusing* lecture with enthusiasm or with annoyance?

B. DIRECTIONS: *Use the context of the sentences and what you know about the Latin prefix dis- to explain your answer to each question.*

1. If one high school football team *displaces* another in the league rankings, what happens?

2. If you *disentangle* a complex problem, what have you done: solved it, or made it worse?

3. If two plays or novels are *dissimilar*, are they more notable for their likenesses or their differences?

