

Character of Ulysess

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Ulysses :

Greek mythology

A great hero of Trojan War

Ulysses in reference to Victorian era

Not satisfied in the role of a ruler

Adventurous spirit

Quest for knowledge

“ It little profits that an idle king,
By this still hearth, among these barren crags,
Match'd with an aged wife, I mete and dole
Unequal laws unto a savage race,
That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me.”

(1 - 5)

According to adventurous Ulysses:

- a) Ruler enjoys leisure life
- b) Home comfort
- c) Establish law and order
- d) Civilized the subject
- e) Common people live ordinary life
- f) No idea about him

“I cannot rest from travel: I will drink
Life to the lees: All times I have enjoy'd
Greatly, have suffer'd greatly, both with those
That loved me, and alone, on shore, and when
Thro' scudding drifts the rainy Hyades
Vext the dim sea: I am become a name;”

(6 - 11)

Ulysses says about himself:

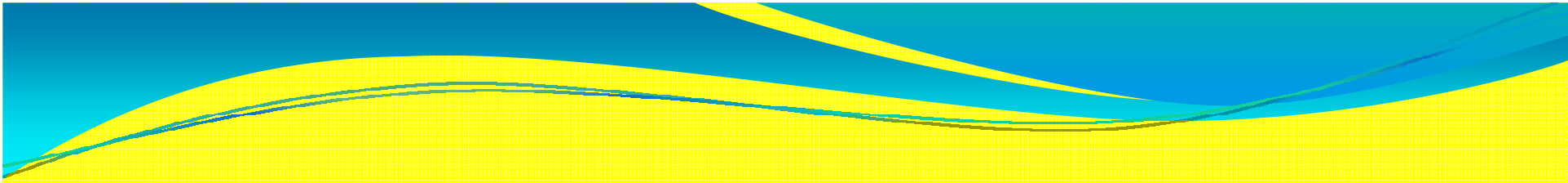
- a) he is a passionate traveller
- b) thrilled and endured a lot as a traveller
- c) make journey: land and rough sea
- d) He is famous as an explorer

“For always roaming with a hungry heart
Much have I seen and known; cities of men
And manners, climates, councils, governments,
Myself not least, but honour'd of them all;”

(12 - 15)

Being a traveller Ulysses:

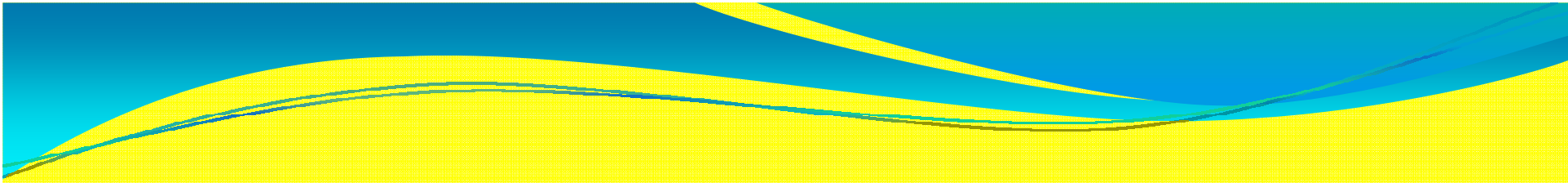
- a) acquire knowledge
- b) explore a great part of the world
- c) honoured by all



“And drunk delight of battle with my peers,
Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.
I am a part of all that I have met;”

(16 - 18)

- a) enjoyed fight along with his comrades
- b) fought in Troy
- c) travelling to widens his world



“Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades
For ever and forever when I move.”

(19 - 21)

- a) His travel experience always inspires him to explore more of the unknown world
- b) His hunger for journey is always high

How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use!
As tho' to breathe were life! Life piled on life

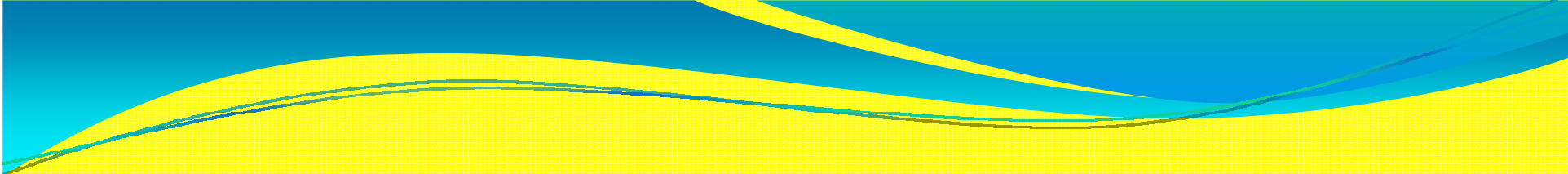
(22 - 24)

According to Ulysses:

- a) Static life becomes boring.
- b) Idle life tends towards the end.
- c) Life is like a sword. Dynamic life always shines
- d) Mere breathing is not life.
- e) Eat, drink and sleep do not indicate life

“Were all too little, and of one to me
Little remains: but every hour is saved
From that eternal silence, something more,”
(25 – 27)

- a) Aged Ulysses does not have much time.
- b) He wants to live every moments of his life until death
- c) Wants to achieve “more” before his death



“A bringer of new things; and vile it were
For some three suns to store and hoard myself,
And this gray spirit yearning in desire
To follow knowledge like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought.”

(28 - 32)

- a) Ulysses still looks forward to discover something new
- b) Small span of life is left
- c) Endless quest for knowledge

“There lies the port; the vessel puffs her sail:
There gloom the dark, broad seas. My mariners,
Souls that have toil'd, and wrought, and thought with
me –

That ever with a frolic welcome took
The thunder and the sunshine, and opposed”

(44 - 48)

- a) Ships are ready to sail into the ocean
- b) Ulysses' sailors are determined like him
- c) Equally, they enjoyed and suffered with him

Free hearts, free foreheads – you and I are old;
Old age hath yet his honour and his toil;
Death closes all: but something ere the end,
Some work of noble note, may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods.

(49 - 53)

- a) Old age can not make them inactive
- b) Though all are close to death
- c) Before death they want to do something gracious

“ . . . Come, my friends,
'T is not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds”
(56 - 59)

- a) Ulysses asks his fellow comrades to join the venture
- b) Still they have the capability to explore a new world
- c) Ulysses with his Mariners begin to sail the boats

“To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
Of all the western stars, until I die.
It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.”

(60 – 64)

- a) Sail to the horizon
- b) His venture would stop only at his death
- b) May be they drowned or reached to the “Happy Isles”
- c) They may meet the great warrior Achilles

“Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.”

(65 – 70)

- a) Do not have the strength like early days
- b) But all have the same heart and soul (Iron determination)
- c) Physically weak but mental strength is intact to explore

Reference:

[https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45392/
ulysses](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45392/ulysses)



Thank you