

Humanities I

Unit 6 The Hero and the Good Life

Discuss the personal characteristics of Odysseus, ie., what physical qualities did he possess? What other qualities did he possess? What sort of a hero was Odysseus?

Describe the physical as well as other characteristics of the Greek ideal, note especially, the qualities represented in each image according to the filmstrip shown.

In the second selection in your reading, what did Solon have to say about the good man? Did his idea of the good man include any of the characteristics you have been discussing?

How did Solon define happiness?

Do you think that the definitions of a good man and of happiness that you have been discussing are good definitions for modern men?

May the Greek concept of the ideal hero be said to be a strictly conservative view? What place may the physically unfit, or less fit, and the ordinary man of the street without claim to fame and glory, have? What necessary ingredients of greatness and goodness are missing in this concept?

The great poet Milton concluded a sonnet with this line:
"They also serve, who only stand and and wait."
Where does humility fit into the discussion of heroic greatness?
Do you find evidence of humility in either Odysseus or Solon?

(Homer's The Odyssey is available in the classroom library.)