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| Generic obstacles you could face: | Similar scenario from the *Odyssey*: | Rationale/Reasoning: |
| Staying focused; staying on track; not being distracted. | The Lotus Eaters | In each situation, a distraction from a goal is encountered. In order to succeed, distraction must be avoided or defeated; otherwise, no more progress can be made. |
| Defeating the competition; winning a position on a team; getting a job over other possible candidates, etc. | The Test of the Bow. | Odysseus’ goal is to reunite with his wife; in order to reach this goal he must outperform those who share the same goal. When attempting to get a job, make a team, etc., you will face others you want the same as you. In order to defeat them, you must outperform them, just like Odysseus did. |
| Passing an exam; completing a final project; receiving a military promotion; getting a particular license, etc. | The Trunk of the Olive Tree | In both cases, the goal is to prove oneself. Odysseus must convince his wife he is who he claims to be; in our lives, we may face situations that do not test us against others, but rather against ourselves. By doing well, we show our worth. |
| Passing an entrance/exit exam; making it through school; dealing with a disagreeable coworker or boss; | The Cyclops | In both situations, individuals find themselves trapped in a situation or a place. The only way out is to persevere and work towards a solution, which could involve intelligence and creativity rather than strength. Also present in each situation: a guardian preventing the progress of the journey. To continue, this Cyclops must be defeated. |
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