

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

? CHECKQUIZ

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**ULYSSES**  
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Based on your knowledge of the selection, briefly answer each question in the space provided.

1. How does Ulysses spend his time in his old age?

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2. Where has Ulysses traveled in the past?

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3. How does Ulysses wish to spend his remaining years?

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4. How does Ulysses characterize his son?

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5. What is Ulysses goal, as expressed in the poem?

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## LITERARY CRITIQUE

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### ULYSSES ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Based on your understanding of the selection, briefly answer each question in the space provided.

1. What possible interpretations can be offered for the term “unequal laws” in the lines, “I mete and dole/Unequal laws unto a savage race” (lines 3-4)?

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2. What two possible interpretations can be given to the phrase, “myself not least” in the lines, “Much have I seen and known; cities of men/And manners, climates, councils, governments,/Myself not least, but honoured of them all ...” (lines 13-15)?

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3. In what way is Ulysses “a part of all that [he has] met” (line 18)?

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4. To what does Ulysses refer when he speaks of a moving horizon that reveals an “untravelling world, whose margin fades/for ever and for ever ...” (lines 20-21)?

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LITERARY CRITIQUE

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ULYSSES  
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

5. What is Tennyson's philosophy about old age?

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6. What does Ulysses mean by saying, "It may be that the gulfs will wash us down" (line 62)? Does the possibility of that occurrence add to, or detract from, your opinion of him?

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7. What is it that "abides" (line 65)?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## READING COMPREHENSION

### ULYSSES

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

After reading the following excerpt from “Ulysses,” circle the letter of the response that best completes each of the statements below.

This is my son, mine own Telemachus,  
To whom I leave the sceptre and the isle —                    35  
Well-loved of me, discerning to fulfil  
This labour, by slow prudence to make mild  
A rugged people, and through soft degrees  
Subdue them to the useful and the good.  
Most blameless is he, centred in the sphere  
Of common duties, decent not to fail                    40  
In offices of tenderness, and pay  
Meet adoration to my household gods,  
When I am gone. He works his work, I mine.

1. Ulysses expects Telemachus to
  - a. rule prudently.
  - b. subdue new lands.
  - c. become more rugged.
2. The phrase “soft degrees” (line 38) refers to
  - a. latitudes of warm climate.
  - b. gradual changes.
  - c. gentle decrees.
3. The verse implies that Telemachus is
  - a. devoted to his duties.
  - b. a tender son.
  - c. afraid of responsibility.
4. The words, “When I am gone” (line 43) indicate that
  - a. Ulysses is abdicating.
  - b. Ulysses is old.
  - c. Ulysses is going on vacation.
5. Ulysses implies that Telemachus
  - a. is the right person to rule after him.
  - b. will not rule effectively.
  - c. will be a dictatorial ruler.