

**“An Ancient Gesture”** by Edna St. Vincent Millay  
**“Siren Song”** by Margaret Atwood  
**“Prologue”** and **“Epilogue”** from *The Odyssey* by Derek Walcott  
**“Ithaca”** by Constantine Cavafy

## Reading Strategy: Comparing and Contrasting

All of these poems are based on Homer’s classic epic the *Odyssey*. As you read each poem, you will notice that many important details, characters, and events in the four updated works are similar to those in the original work, and many are quite different. Noticing these similarities and differences—or **comparing and contrasting**—can help you to understand and appreciate both the modern adaptations and Homer’s original epic.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose one of the four selections. Use the following Venn diagram to identify similarities and differences between it and Homer’s *Odyssey*. Write the differences in the outer sections of the circles and the similarities where the circles overlap.

