***The Odyssey***

Compare two translations of the opening lines. Create a four-paragraph analysis that compares the translations use of syntax, figurative language, and diction.

Sing in me, Muse, and through me tell the story

of that man skilled in all ways of contending,

the wanderer, harried for years on end,

after he plundered the stronghold

on the proud height of Troy.  
                                     He saw the townlands

and learned the minds of many distant men,

and weathered many bitter nights and days

in his deep heart at sea, while he fought only

to save his life, to bring his shipmates home.

But not by will nor valor could he save them,

for their own recklessness destroyed them all —

children and fools, they killed and feasted on

the cattle of Lord Hêlios, the Sun,

and he who moves all day through the heaven

took from their eyes the dawn of their return. . . .

*Translated by Robert Fitzgerald (1961)*

*Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns*

driven time and again off course, once he had plundered the hallowed heights of Troy.

*Many cities of men he saw* and *learned their minds*,

*many pains he suffered*, heartsick on the open sea,

fighting to save his life and bring his comrades home.

But he *could not save them from disaster*, hard as he strove –

the *recklessness of their own ways destroyed them all*,

the blind fools, they devoured the cattle of the Sun

and the Sungod blotted out the day of their return. . . .

*Translated by Robert Fagles (1996)*