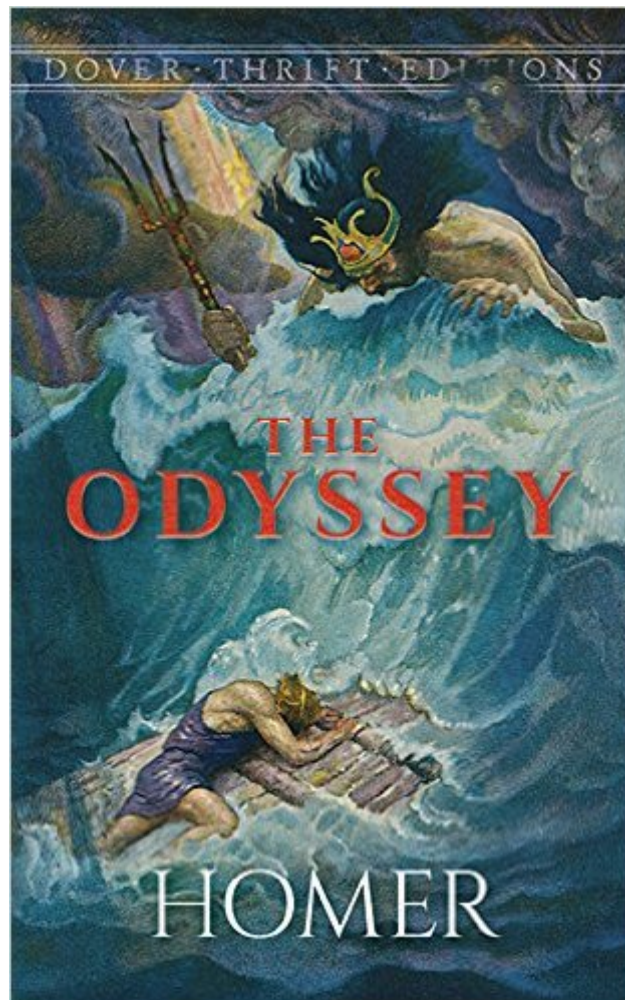


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# The Odyssey (Dover Thrift Editions)



## Synopsis

This excellent prose translation of Homer's epic poem of the 9th century BC recounts one of Western civilization's most glorious tales, a treasury of Greek folklore and myth that maintains an ageless appeal for modern readers. A cornerstone of Western literature, The Odyssey narrates the path of a fascinatingly complex hero through a world of wonders and danger-filled adventure. After ten bloody years of fighting in the Trojan War, the intrepid Odysseus heads homeward, little imagining that it will take another ten years of desperate struggle to reclaim his kingdom and family. The wily hero circumvents the wrath of the sea god Poseidon and triumphs over an incredible array of obstacles, assisted by his patron goddess Athene and his own prodigious guile. From a literal descent into Hell to interrogate a dead prophet to a sojourn in the earthly paradise of the Lotus-eaters, the gripping narrative traverses the mythological world of ancient Greece to introduce an unforgettable cast of characters: one-eyed giants known as Cyclopes, the enchantress Circe, cannibals, sirens, the twin perils of Scylla and Charybdis, and a fantastic assortment of other creatures. Remarkably modern in its skillful use of flashbacks and parallel line of action, Homer's monumental work is now available in this inexpensive, high-quality edition sure to be prized by students, teachers, and all who love the great myths and legends of the ancient world. A selection of the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was my first epic adventure, and I was pleased to discover that this translation (Palmer) is arranged in prose rather than poetic stanzas. Very easy to read. Squillace, the editor, contributes admirably by introducing contemporary terms and descriptions that do not detract from the greater work. Were you to ask me which terms were his and which belonged to Palmer's original 1927(9?) translation, I'd have to search, they are that seamless. The Introduction is much better read at the end of the book than before you begin. The footnotes are very interesting, I recommend reading through them all at once (there aren't too many) than flipping to them every time they appear. Keeps the story moving, that way, and they are not critical to the plot. The discussion questions at the end are pretty weak. If only there was a copy of 'the Iliad' to accompany this version of the Odyssey...a terrific story. Highly recommended.

I'm reading The Odyssey to my son (age 4) as bedtime reading (I'm tired of kiddie books, we're going to read stuff that Daddy can appreciate!). This is a very good prose translation, easy to read, and it is an excellent Kindle format, well laid out. What can I say about the story of the Odyssey? You either like classical epics, or you don't. It's got monsters, violence, sex, what more can you ask for?

This particular translation of the Odyssey was enjoyable. The plot is classic and numerous other authors have ripped off the plot/format and appropriated it, like Virgil's Aeneid. The parts with Telemachus are kind of boring, but the last half or so of the poem was great. The B&N version really doesn't add anything special.

I read this book for its value as an ancient classic and to try to get a feel for the way of thinking back then, which obviously had much opportunity to influence the development of the modern ways of thinking. I was very pleased that the story also turned out to be a great read. I was surprised that the gods played such an influential role in the story, and the development of the personalities of the various gods is quite interesting. I appreciated that the book was written in prose and is also quite readable. Don't read the introduction before you read the book unless you would like to have the plot completely spoiled. This Dover Thrift edition makes this a great value.

The Trojan War is over and one of our hero kings is lost. His son (Telemachus) travels to find any information about his father's fate. His wife (Penelope) must cunningly hold off suitors that are eating them out of house and home. If he ever makes it home, Odysseus will have to detect those servants

loyal from those who are not. One absent king against rows of suitors; how will he give them their just desserts? We look to Bright Eyed Pallas Athena to help prophecy come true. Interestingly all the tales of monsters and gods on the sea voyage was told by Odysseus. Notice that no one else survives to tell the tale. Therefore, we have to rely on Odysseus' word. Many movies took sections of The Odyssey, and expanded them to make interesting stories those selves. Not just the story but also the way in which it is told will keep you up late at night reading.

Okay--I realize we can find truths about the world in many venues--but it's ALL in the Odyssey. Best text-EVER. Make sure you read the Fitzgerald translation--forget this prose version. You must agree, "Greed and Folly double the suffering of the lot of man"--not the gods (or that damn Realtor), as we would like to presume.

I usually have great luck with the Lexile levels of Dover Thrift Editions, and have been very satisfied with the versions of Little Women and Black Beauty that I bought for my middle school classroom. Unfortunately, the Lexile level and prose of this edition was just too complex for my 12-14 years olds. In edition - the font is a 9 or 10 like Times New Roman, which is too small for the average reader. I had to send back all 12 copies.

The Odyssey (and Iliad) are some of the best written stories I've had the benefit of being made to read them and returned to them a 3rd and fourth time and experienced new realizations each time.

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