



The Adventures of Odysseus

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Travel back in time to experience one of the greatest epic stories of all time. Once the Trojan war ended, Odysseus thought his journey home would begin. But what he assumed was the end of his adventure was truly only the beginning.

The Adventures of Odysseus Details

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Author : Hugh Lupton , Daniel Morden , Christina Balit (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Adventures of Odysseus for online ebook

Emily says

A very easy reading book of a great Greek myth.

Mel says

My children and I thoroughly enjoyed this re-telling of an age old classic. The artwork is wonderful too!

Nicola Mansfield says

Reason for Reading: I love Greek mythology and never pass up reading a new retelling of Odysseus.

Another beautiful book from Barefeet Books! This is a mate to Arthur of Albion and a part of their series of chapter books, which contains the two books so far. Heavy card covers with flaps, quality paper and delightfully illustrated as the previous picture book edition has been reduced to a trade paperback size. The gorgeous illustrations by Christina Balit are plentiful and are used for both decorative and illustrative purposes. The colours are heavily Mediterranean with greeny blues and blueish greens mixed with sand colours that darken to browns. Blait's style has an abstract, unrealistic look which matches the legendary epic tale she is painting.

The retelling itself is not the best I've read as it lacks a certain emotion. The authors have gone for an authentic retelling including all aspects of the tale, including a Prologue which recaps the whole Trojan War and puts Odysseus in place for his journey home for the reader. The problem comes from the briefness of the multitude of events. Each one is told thoroughly and rapidly as we sail quickly chapter through chapter with Odysseus. This, unfortunately, leaves little room for the reader to connect with Odysseus and enjoy him as a person. I felt as if I was being told a story about Odysseus rather than going on the journey along with him and getting to know and care for him. This is not unique to this book and can be a common occurrence in children's retellings, as action is chosen over character development when only a certain number of pages can be used.

Now, this doesn't mean the story isn't enjoyable or worth reading; it's the adventures of Odysseus after all! As mentioned all the various aspects of the story have been included. The authors have kept the violence of the original in place and while not inappropriately graphic at all it certainly is not for the squeamish as the cyclopes bashes a man's brains against a wall then pops him in his mouth, for example. However, on the other hand, the sensuous nature of the original has been left out all together and is perfectly clean for all ages.

An enjoyable read, a good introduction to the story, with lovely illustrations and as usual for Barefoot Books, a quality produced book.

Shannon says

A brilliant telling of the epic stories of Odysseus. Fantastic illustrations. Although this is a children's book, it is enthralling for adults, too. Perfect as a read-aloud for all ages. A great introduction to the Odyssey. All of our children loved this book.

Hannah Higson says

Great to teach Year 5 children the story I learnt for GCSE and A Level!

Caroline says

A great first introduction to The Oddysey, with excellent artwork

Theresa says

Absolutely gorgeous illustrations accompanying a text that is simplified for children, yet still enchanting. I read this aloud to my 9yo daughter over a few days and she loved it--couldn't wait to hear the next chapter. It really was a joy to read aloud.

Teri says

This is it! Finally I've found THE children's adaptation of The Odyssey that doesn't have too much detail or too many characters to keep track of, but plenty of adventure and vocabulary to grow on! I've loved anything Christina Balit has illustrated and this is no exception. And just my two cents--I think it's a GREAT idea to expose children to great works of literature like The Odyssey, so when they encounter the actual works when they are older it will not be overwhelming or unfamiliar because they will already know the story and the characters. Hope this author has written something similar for The Iliad.

Jeremy says

Thought about reading this to/with Kate but decided not to for now.

It includes a prologue about the judgment of Paris and the Trojan War.

Alcinous and "food for the soul" (stories)

Missing some major interactions in the underworld.

Interesting charge at the end: "Dreams and visions come through two gates: either through a gate of ivory or through a gate of horn. If the dream, the vision, comes through the ivory gate, it is mere fancy, fantasy. If it comes through the gate of horn it carries truth. This dream, this vision, is over. You must decide through which gate it has come."

Erik This Kid Reviews Books says

The Greek king of Ithaca, Odysseus, was called upon to fight against Troy in the Trojan War. After the war, Odysseus and his soldiers sailed for Ithaca. But, when they moor at a strange island, and blind the giant cyclops Polyphemus, Odysseus shouts his name during bloating to the monster about who blinded it. The cyclops curses Odysseus and his crew. Polyphemus' father, the god of the sea, Poseidon, then makes it extremely trying for Odysseus and his crew. Most of the crew die. Will Odysseus and his men every see home again?

This is a great re-telling of the *Odyssey* by the blind poet, Homer. I love how this abridged version of the *Odyssey* is pretty simple, but very informative and perfect for the age it is written for. In this book, kids learn more about the Ancient Greek culture through the fabulous illustrations and the enlightening text. The illustrations are awesome.

This version is great for kids!

*NOTE - I got a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Isabella says

If you want to learn about something without working your way through lots and lots of hard-to-understand material and unnecessary information, children's books are usually a good place to start. I've done presentations based mostly on kids book on history and gotten really great marks: they always tell you the most important things in a way that's easy to understand.

So when I realized I wanted to know more about Odysseus (because greek mythology is really rad), i immediately went to the children's section of the library.

The Adventures of Odysseus does a great job of telling the stories and the illustrations are absolutely beautiful. And I feel smarter now. Yay!

Amanda Brooke says

Beautifully illustrated classic.

Wendee says

My sons and I just finished this book in three sittings. It was a perfect adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey*--made it understandable for kids. We were in such suspense over how Odysseus and his men would get out of the

Cyclop's cave, how they would get past the whirlpool and the six-headed dragon, and how Odysseus would get rid of the gluttonous suitors and win his beloved wife back. I had forgotten what a thrilling tale this is. War, blood, and weapons made this a captivating story for boys especially. Definitely one we will read again.

Angela says

This is a book which I will work on with my year 6 class for the next 5 weeks, as part of the Power of Reading literacy scheme. This book is an adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey* and when I first started to read it I was a little dubious as I thought it would contain too much detail and be too difficult for the children to follow. However once you get past the first 2 chapters the story really takes off and its great! Its a true adventure story, with Odysseus trying to find his way home to Ithaca after fighting in the Trojan war for 10 years. He imagines the wonderful welcome he will receive upon his arrival; however his journey home becomes a huge challenging adventure in which he encounters a gruesome cyclops (but luckily escapes his wrath!), a 6 headed dragon, a tempestuous lady by the name of Circe and many more obstacles. There is a really great gruesome scene in which Odysseus and his men blind the cyclops with a hot sharpened stick of wood, along with lots of more gore fighting which I think will really appeal to boys. The story is full of mythical gods and goddesses with super human powers, which I think girls will enjoy. As the story has a lot of different characters, I have printed and laminated images of the different characters so that I can stick these on the board as I'm reading the story so that the children wont loose track of who is who. There are loads of activities you can do based on this book e.g. a reenactment of Odysseus's encounter with the cyclops, a diary entry by Penelope describing how she feels waiting for her husband to return home, hot seating, making predictions about what will happen in the next chapter etc. The story is full of rich language and there will definitely be words that kids have not come across before so its a great chance for them to learn new vocab.

I think this is suitable for independent readers from age 9 and upwards, but could be read to younger children. Its a great way to start learning about Greek mythology.

Beth says

WOW, WOW, WOW - 5*

I really, really, really can't wait to read *The Odyssey* and after reading this, it sounds SO much better than *The Iliad* .

The Adventures of Odysseus is 126 pages so it's not a "dumbed down" version at all. We're studying this book for three weeks so I will be re-reading this with my class and I really hope they'll enjoy it because I thought it was awesome...

Lesson learned from The Adventures of Odysseus. Don't piss off Poseidon.
Yeah, I love this book. Can't wait to read it again.
