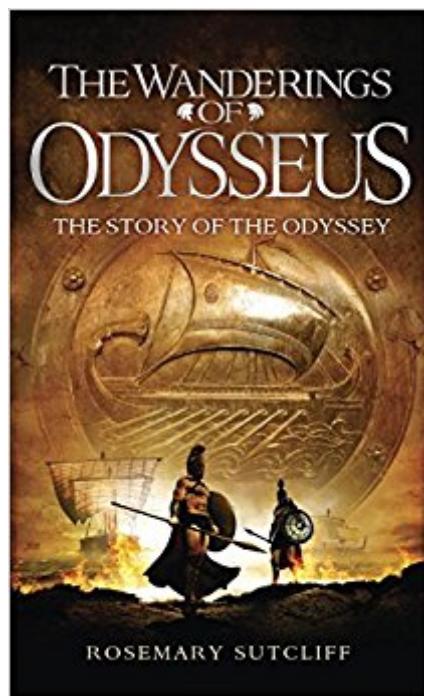


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The Wanderings Of Odysseus: The Story Of The Odyssey



Synopsis

For Greek myth fans, those who can't get enough of the D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, and readers who have aged out of Rick Riordan, this classroom staple and mythology classic is perfect for learning about the ancient myths! King Odysseus and the Greeks have triumphed over the Trojans. At long last, they are able to set sail for home and the loving family Odysseus left behind. But for the heroic king, the return voyage holds hazards far greater than any he faced during the war. Forced by treacherous winds into unknown seas, Odysseus and his crew must face deadly perils: the flesh-eating Cyclops, Circe and her deadly enchantments, and the soul-chilling Land of the Dead and more. Rosemary Sutcliff's reimagining of the classic epic The Odyssey is woven through with a spectacular cast of men, magicians, and monsters. Odysseus' harrowing journey home to his family and kingdom tests the limits of his strength, and the power of his will. Homer's epic poem, The Odyssey, is one of the greatest adventure stories of all time and Rosemary Sutcliff stays true to the classic tale and characters in this authentic retelling rich with drama, magic, and heroism. Don't miss Black Ships Before Troy, the companion to The Wanderings of Odysseus, and follow Odysseus and his crew as they fight in the epic battle against the Trojans.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8?As with *Black Ships Before Troy* (Delacorte, 1993), Sutcliff's retelling of *The Iliad*, the story of *The Odyssey* is presented in an accessible, enjoyable format. A brief prologue sets the scene after the fall of Troy. The chapters, each of which tells of a challenge Odysseus faced, are not episodic, but rather come together as a continuing story. Sutcliff creates an intimate portrait of a man whose greatest desire is to return to his wife and home, despite great temptations. He is portrayed as a conquering hero-god, but with a touch of sadness. The reteller uses storytelling techniques to engage readers and the language and rhythm of a bard to maintain the story's flow. The detailed watercolor illustrations are dreamlike and soft-edged. They set the mood for the essence of particular episodes and display the horrors of battle where appropriate. Reading the first book would clarify Odysseus's entire tale, but is not necessary to the enjoyment of this volume. The pronunciation guide and map are helpful. Readers will enjoy this classic adventure, and they may be inspired to explore Greek mythology further.?Cheri Estes, Detroit Country Day School Middle School, Beverly Hills, MI
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Gr. 5^8. A companion to *Black Ships before Troy* (1993), this handsome, large-size volume retells Homer's *Odyssey* with thrilling drama. There's no clashing climax like the *Iliad*'s Wooden Horse, but the story of the hero's long years of wandering in the wilderness has the mythic power of everyone's search for home. Several episodes are just right for reading aloud, from the blinding of the Cyclops and his howl of revenge to the quiet courage of Penelope trying to hold off the suitors. Lee's watercolor paintings in shades of blue and brown capture the furious action of the wild ocean and the rocky shore, as in the double-page spread of the ship caught between Scylla and Charybdis. Several pictures also focus on lonely people wrenched apart. Sutcliff's narrative style is not as taut as in *Black Ships*, but in the best parts, she fuses epic grandeur with a direct simplicity that will bring the universal story home. Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My 12 year old son doesn't dislike reading, but he isn't a bookworm by any stretch. His reading skills are excellent, but he much prefers to play sports or drums to sitting down with a good book. My son had studied Ancient Greece last school year, and so I thought he might enjoy Greek mythology for his summer reading. After much research, I chose this book and "D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths." Well, he couldn't put either book down and just raved about them. I was thrilled! I just placed an

order for "Black Ships before Troy: The Story of 'The Iliad,'" another Sutcliff book. "The Wanderings of Odysseus" made "The Odyssey" accessible for my son without dumbing it down or making it too much of a children's book, so to speak, and I am hoping that Sutcliff has done the same for "The Iliad."

Book itself is fine, but there's too much uncertainty in which version you're getting. The "Look Inside" is for an edition with illustrations, but I never was certain if the paperback did or didn't have illustrations. Well, it doesn't.

My 10-year-old son read this book as a part of his summer reading for school. He has been reading the Rick Riordan books for quite a while and really loves mythology. He enjoyed this book and wanted more details about the life of Odysseus than what were given (which is why he rates it a 4 instead of a 5). My son said it was a moderately challenging read, though he finished it rather quickly.

My son wanted so badly to read the *Odyssey* but at 10 it was way above his reading level. I searched for a version that would give him the story in a way that he could understand and this fit the bill.

My 4th grade son read this and loved it. He was fascinated by it and looked forward to our reading every day (he would read aloud to me). Having read the adult version, I was impressed by this childrens' copy because it stays true to the grain of the story. There is nothing Disneyfied about it. I highly recommend this book to any parent who is trying to introduce classic works to their children, as well as any parent seeking good quality literature. The illustrations are top-rate and further serve to involve the junior reader. Also highly recommended is Sutcliff's *Black Ships Before Troy*, which is the children's *Iliad*.

In one form or another, most people are familiar with the story of Odysseus' return from the Trojan War. The *Odyssey* is a key text at the very core of Western Literature. To be educated, this is one of the few books that a cultivated person must know. Consequently, there is a certain amount of pressure for any author who aims to retell this story for children. Miss some key detail or an important incident and there will be a knowing parent to note its absence. Rosemary Sutcliff spent her entire career writing for young adults. She specialized in books set in the Ancient and Medieval

world. Sutcliff understood her reading public and knew how to craft a story to their level of sophistication. "The Wanderings of Odysseus" has just the right amount of detail for young adults. Before starting this book, I finished reading Sutcliff's "Black Ships Before Troy" to my six year old son. It was a very rewarding read but at the end, I had to wonder whether I had done my son a disservice by reading such a violent book to him. To Sutcliff's credit, she included all the violence and cruelty that is at the heart of The Iliad. In the end, I rationalized reading him this book because I thought it was important to expose him at a young age to such an important book. Fortunately, I did not have this conflicted feeling after reading "The Wanderings of Odysseus". While the Odyssey has its moments of violence, the story lacks the cruelty and savagery of The Iliad. Each parent must judge their own child's level of sensitivity. In my opinion, "The Wanderings of Odysseus" is a book better suited to young children.

LOTS of illustrations by a master, the writing so good that it will hold listeners/readers of almost any age. You might think that it is too much for the young....remember all those slaughters in Homer....but there are other factors to remember when you judge for the young. For a start, Homer sits at the base of all Western literature, so if you are aiming for a real education and not just developing the desire to read, you can't leave Homer out. Secondly, if you read aloud to your child, you should ALWAYS be reading just a little AHEAD of whatever they could manage on their own. It not only holds their interest and educates, but it will make certain that they will also advance beyond what they would otherwise accomplish. And you can return to Homer over and over again, usually finding something new to discuss or mull over afterwards.

This a a marverlous retelling of the Odyssey for children. Sutcliffe does an excellent job summarizing the original with great faifulness, for a young audience. The illustrations are fabulous, and the entire tale will hold children in rapt wonder if you read them a chapter a night and let them pour over the pictures on each page.

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