



RAHNAMA
P R E S S

@RAHNAMAPRESS
WWW.RAHNAMAPRESS.COM

QUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 4

The Odyssey

Homer



Contents

	Activities 1	iv
Chapter 1	An Island without a King	1
Chapter 2	Telemachus's Travels	9
	Activities 2	18
Chapter 3	Leaving Calypso	20
Chapter 4	With the Phaeacians	27
	Activities 3	32
Chapter 5	A Monster with One Eye	34
Chapter 6	Circe	41
	Activities 4	46
Chapter 7	Teiresias's Prophecy	48
Chapter 8	Coming Home	57
	Activities 5	62
Chapter 9	Telemachus Returns	64
Chapter 10	Odysseus at the Palace	70
	Activities 6	76
Chapter 11	The Day of Judgement	78
Chapter 12	Odysseus and Penelope	85
	Talk about it	88
	Write about it	89
	Project: Skills for Life	90

What's the book about?

This book is about a man's journey home from the Trojan War. What do you think? Circle the correct words.

- 1 The hero's name is *Odysseus / Achilles*.
- 2 He is *Egyptian / Greek*.
- 3 He lived *more than 3,000 / about 1,000* years ago.
- 4 His return has been delayed by *bad weather / the gods*.

1.2 What happens first?

Look at these pictures and answer the questions. What do you think?



1 Who are the people? Write 1–4.

- a the hero's son
- b the hero's wife
- c the hero's servant
- d a man who wants to marry the hero's wife

2 Guess the answers to these questions. Write 1–4.

- a Which two people **like** Odysseus completely?
- b Which person wants Odysseus to return but is upset with him?
- c Which person doesn't want him to return?

An Island without a King

'If you prefer to destroy my property, then stay. But I will ask Zeus for a day of judgement, and on that day I will destroy you.'

'Odysseus's unlucky **fate** is causing me great sadness,' said the goddess Athene to her father, the great god Zeus. 'It is now twenty years since he has seen his home and loving family. Zeus, Father, King of Kings, why are you doing nothing to help this man?'

'I have not forgotten the great hero Odysseus, my child,' replied Zeus. 'You are right – his troubles have continued long enough. We should bring him home.'

'Thank you, Father,' said bright-eyed Athene. 'First I will go to Odysseus's palace and talk to his son, young Telemachus. I must make him ready for his father's return.'

Athene put on her shoes of gold, which carried her as fast as the wind down from Mount Olympus, over land and sea, to the island of Ithaca. As she arrived at Odysseus's palace, she **disguised** herself as a man called Mentos, a family friend of Odysseus.

Outside the house she found a group of men playing a noisy game while servants were busy around them. Some of the servants were pouring glasses of water; others were piling meat onto plates and preparing the tables for dinner. Odysseus's son, Telemachus, was sitting unhappily among the men, dreaming of his father's return.

Telemachus saw Athene in her disguise, and felt ashamed that no one was greeting the visitor. He hurried towards her. 'Welcome, friend!' he said. 'Come and have some food. Then you can tell us why you are here.'

He led Athene to a table away from the other men, worried that his visitor would be upset by their noise and rudeness. A servant poured water into a fine silver bowl so they could wash their hands. Then plates of bread and meat were brought, and their gold cups were filled with fruit juice.

The other men also ate well, then called for a song from the **bard** Phemius. As Phemius began, Telemachus said to his guest, 'Those men over there worry about nothing except music. They have an easy life, living free while another man pays! If Odysseus returned now, they would wish for a faster pair of legs, not gold or fine clothes. But unfortunately that will never happen. My father was once the

fate /feɪt/ (n) the things that happen to someone, especially the unpleasant things
disguise /dɪs'ɡaɪz/ (v, n) to change your appearance so you look like someone else
bard /bɑ:d/ (n) a man who sings poems that tell stories of heroes and gods



king of this island, but now his bones are probably being washed by the rain in a faraway land, or by the salt sea waves. No one can give us any news of him. But tell me, what is your name, and what is the reason for your visit?

‘My name is Mentés,’ answered bright-eyed Athene. ‘My family and yours have been friends for many years. I am here because I heard that your father had already arrived home. The gods must be making his journey difficult, but I am sure that he is still alive. He is a **resourceful** man; he will think of a way to get home. But are you really Odysseus’s son? You have grown so tall! You certainly have your father’s eyes – although I have not seen him for twenty years, since he left to fight in the Trojan War.’

‘Sometimes I wish I had a different father, who was growing old in his own home,’ Telemachus replied. ‘Odysseus is the most unfortunate man that has ever lived.’

‘He is lucky, at least, in his choice of wife, Penelope. But tell me, what are you celebrating with this special meal? And who are these men, who bring no food but behave like the owners of the house? I have never seen such impolite guests.’

‘My friend,’ Telemachus replied, ‘these men have a meal like this every day of the year. My father’s disappearance has brought disaster to this house. Many great

resourceful /rɪˈzɔːsfəl/ (adj) good at finding ways to solve problems

heroes died in the Trojan War, but their sons are lucky. *Their* fathers left them a famous name. Odysseus was still alive at the end of the war, but he has left me only tears. These men have come from Ithaca and neighbouring lands, hoping to marry my mother. She does not want to accept any of her **suitors**. But with no news of my father, she cannot refuse them all. They wait for her answer, eating and resting in our house until we are nearly ruined.'

'How terrible!' the goddess replied. 'They will die if your father ever finds them here. But while he is away, you must try to change the situation yourself. Here is my advice. Choose your best ship, hire a **crew** of twenty strong **oarsmen**, and go in search of news of your father. Someone may be able to tell you about him. Go to Pylos first and question its king, wise Nestor. Then continue to King Menelaus in Sparta, since he was the last of the Greeks to reach home. If you hear that your father is alive, prepare yourself for another year with the suitors. But if you hear that he is dead, give your mother in marriage to another man and end the suitors' stay in your house. You are not a child now. Act like a man, and your grandchildren's grandchildren will celebrate your name. But it is getting late. I must return to my ship or my crew will start to worry. Think about my advice.'

'Thank you, good Mentos,' Telemachus said warmly. 'You have shown me the kindness of a father to his son. But will you not stay a little longer? Have a bath and relax. Then you can go back to your ship with a gift from my house – something beautiful and valuable, as you have proved to be a good friend.'

'No,' replied Athene. 'I am in a hurry to get back to my ship and reach my destination, the port of Temesa. But I will be glad to accept a gift on my way home.'

When she had finished speaking, the goddess disappeared suddenly, like a bird through a hole in the roof. Telemachus was left feeling braver and more resourceful than before. Noticing this change, he realised that a god had been with him.

His mind was filled with thoughts of his father as he rejoined the suitors. He found them listening in silence to Phemius, who was singing about the Greeks' problems on their return from the Trojan War.

In her rooms upstairs, Penelope could hear the bard too. She came down the stairs with tears in her eyes.

'Phemius,' she said, 'you know so many wonderful songs about great heroes and powerful gods. Choose one of those songs for tonight, and let the men here eat their meals in peace. But give us no more of your present song. It always

suitors /'su:tə, 'sju:-/ (n) a man who wants to marry a woman; he is her *suitors*

crew /kru:/ (n) the people who work on a ship

oar /ɔ:/ (n) a long stick with a wide, flat end, used to pull a boat through water

The Odyssey

by Homer

British English

Classic

The great hero Odysseus has been away from his family for twenty years when the goddess Athene decides to help him find his way back to the island of Ithaca. But the journey will not be easy. Odysseus must face storms, monsters and the terrible anger of the sea-god Poseidon. And if he succeeds, will he be welcomed home?

Number of words (excluding activities): 31,397

Series Editors: Jocelyn Potter and Andy Hopkins

For correlations to English Language Teaching exams, please visit www.penguinreaders.com

Penguin Active Reading provides reading and language learning at five levels, through full-colour, beautifully illustrated Readers. As well as enjoyable stories and texts, each book provides a range of integrated activities designed to develop reading skills and consolidate vocabulary, and offers personalised project work. Each book is supported by an interactive CD-ROM which contains additional activities and the complete audio recording.

Easystarts	200 headwords	
Level 1	300 headwords	<i>Beginner</i>
Level 2	600 headwords	<i>Elementary</i>
Level 3	1200 headwords	<i>Pre-intermediate</i>
Level 4	1700 headwords	<i>Intermediate</i>

Cover image © akq-images / Peter Connolly



www.penguinreaders.com

PENGUIN
ACTIVE
READING



Level 4
1700 headwords
Intermediate

ISBN 978-1-4058-8452-5



9 781405 884525 >