The Odyssey by Homer
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The Odyssey, attributed to Homer (since the ‘real’ author is unknown), is a classic epic about the hero’s journey. This story follows a poetic verse structure, and is set after the events of The Iliad, although it is not necessary to read The Iliad before starting The Odyssey.

What interested me about this epic is the amount of Greek mythology that lies in the poem. It features many gods, demigods, and other mythological creatures throughout the story.

The epic follows the story of Telemachus, the son of Odysseus, a hero of the Trojan War. After Odysseus’s journey detailed in The Iliad, he is lost, away from his home and family for most of Telemachus’s life. Odysseus had his own hero’s journey in The Iliad, but The Odyssey follows Telemachus’s journey to find and reconnect with his father.

I like the character of Telemachus because he is a classic example of a hero. He came up from humble beginnings with the many suitors trying to marry his mother during his father’s absence, and with the lack of a father figure growing up. All of Telemachus’s morals are relatable to readers, and teens may relate to him since Telemachus is also a teen during this poem. This poem was the inspiration for the “hero’s journey” storyline that was the basis for many classics like Beowulf as well as modern stories like Star Wars and The Hobbit.

I like this epic because I enjoy Greek mythology, although the poem is more difficult to read because of the older vocabulary. I recommend using an audiobook if you have trouble reading, as the epic was meant to be told and performed rather than read. I would recommend this story to anybody interested in Greek mythology as Telemachus and others encounter many different figures from Greek mythology. There are many covers to this poem as it is extremely old. Depictions of the cover will feature the boat Telemachus sails on, gods as an intimidating figure, or mythological creatures that the characters encounter. All of the covers don’t reveal anything about the story that the reader wouldn’t already know by reading the first few pages, but they’re all visually pleasing.

Submitted by:
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