

odyssey robert fagles

odyssey robert fagles is a celebrated translation of Homer's epic poem, known for its vivid language, scholarly precision, and accessibility to modern readers. This article provides an in-depth exploration of Robert Fagles' approach to translating The Odyssey, its impact on literary studies, and why it remains a favorite among students, educators, and general readers alike. We will examine the background of the translator, the historical significance of The Odyssey, Fagles' translation techniques, critical reception, and its lasting relevance. Readers interested in classical literature, translation studies, and epic poetry will discover insightful analysis and practical information to deepen their understanding of this important work. Whether you are seeking to choose the right edition, understand differences between translations, or explore the poem's themes and influence, this comprehensive guide delivers all you need on odyssey robert fagles.

- Overview of The Odyssey by Homer
- Robert Fagles: Translator Profile
- Translation Techniques and Approach
- Critical Reception and Academic Impact
- Comparing Fagles' Odyssey to Other Translations
- Thematic Analysis of Fagles' Odyssey
- Why Choose the Robert Fagles Translation?
- Legacy and Influence on Modern Readers

Overview of The Odyssey by Homer

The Odyssey is one of the foundational texts of Western literature, attributed to the ancient Greek poet Homer. Composed around the 8th century BCE, the epic recounts the adventures of Odysseus as he struggles to return home after the Trojan War. The poem explores themes of heroism, loyalty, cunning, and the human struggle against fate and divine intervention. Its enduring narrative has inspired countless adaptations, interpretations, and translations over the centuries.

Key Elements of The Odyssey

- Epic journey of Odysseus across the Mediterranean
- Encounters with mythological creatures and gods
- Exploration of homecoming and identity
- Influence on literature, art, and culture

The Odyssey remains central to classical studies, serving as a touchstone for exploring ancient Greek values, narrative structure, and poetic devices. Its universal themes continue to resonate with modern audiences, making translations like Odysseus Robert Fagles highly sought after.

Robert Fagles: Translator Profile

Robert Fagles (1933–2008) was a renowned American scholar and translator, recognized for his

contributions to making ancient Greek literature accessible. A professor at Princeton University, Fagles devoted much of his career to translating the major epics of Homer, including both *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. His work is celebrated for its balance of scholarly rigor and poetic artistry, bringing the richness of Homer's language to a contemporary audience without sacrificing accuracy or nuance.

Academic Background and Achievements

- Ph.D. in English Literature from Yale University
- Recipient of the PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation
- Extensive experience teaching classical literature
- Influence on modern translation standards

Fagles' expertise ensured his *Odyssey* translation would be both faithful to the original and engaging for readers, solidifying his reputation as a leading figure in classical translation.

Translation Techniques and Approach

The *Odyssey* Robert Fagles translation is distinguished by its dynamic style, careful attention to poetic rhythm, and clarity of expression. Fagles sought to retain the energy and drama of Homer's verse, using modern English idiom while respecting the oral tradition of the original. His translation is noted for its readability and its ability to convey both the grandeur and subtlety of the ancient text.

Major Translation Strategies

- Preservation of narrative pace and rhythm
- Use of vivid imagery and accessible language
- Balancing fidelity to Greek syntax with natural English flow
- Integration of scholarly notes and introductions

Fagles collaborated with classicist Bernard Knox, whose introductions and notes provide valuable historical and literary context, enhancing the reader's understanding of the epic's complexities.

Critical Reception and Academic Impact

Since its publication in 1996, *Odyssey* by Robert Fagles has received widespread acclaim from critics, scholars, and educators. It is frequently adopted for university courses, praised for its engaging prose and comprehensive supporting materials. Reviews highlight Fagles' ability to capture the spirit and drama of Homer's original, making it accessible without oversimplifying the content.

Notable Reviews and Endorsements

- Praised by The New York Times for its “eloquent and muscular” style
- Endorsed by leading academics and literary critics
- Regularly included in recommended reading lists for classical studies
- Widely used in high school and college curricula

The translation's impact extends beyond academia, influencing popular culture and sparking renewed interest in ancient literature among general readers.

Comparing Fagles' Odyssey to Other Translations

Odyssey robert fagles stands out among numerous English translations for its combination of poetic sensibility and scholarly precision. While earlier translators such as Richmond Lattimore and E.V. Rieu emphasized literal accuracy or prose readability, Fagles merges both, resulting in a translation that appeals to both newcomers and seasoned scholars.

Key Differences Between Major Translations

- Lattimore: Highly literal, focusing on word-for-word accuracy
- Rieu: Prose translation, prioritizing accessibility
- Fitzgerald: Poetic, elegant, sometimes less literal
- Fagles: Blends poetic energy with clarity and scholarly notes

Readers often choose odyssey robert fagles for its lively text, comprehensive introductions, and detailed notes that illuminate the historical and literary background of the epic.

Thematic Analysis of Fagles' Odyssey

Robert Fagles' translation brings out the central themes of *The Odyssey* with remarkable clarity and emotional depth. The poem's focus on homecoming, identity, and moral growth is rendered in language that emphasizes the universal relevance of Odysseus's journey. Fagles' approach highlights the interplay between fate, human agency, and the gods, making the ancient story resonate with contemporary concerns.

Major Themes in Fagles' Translation

- Homecoming and the longing for return
- Heroism, cunning, and perseverance
- Power of storytelling and oral tradition
- Role of divine intervention in human affairs

By focusing on the emotional and psychological dimensions of the characters, Fagles' *Odyssey* translation deepens the reader's engagement with Homer's timeless narrative.

Why Choose the Robert Fagles Translation?

Odyssey Robert Fagles is often recommended for its accessibility, literary quality, and educational value. Readers, students, and educators appreciate its engaging style, detailed notes, and the balance between poetic flair and clarity. Fagles' translation is suitable for both personal enjoyment and academic study, making it a versatile choice in the crowded field of Homeric translations.

Advantages of Fagles' Odyssey

1. Appealing prose for modern readers
2. Comprehensive introductions and historical notes
3. Widely adopted in educational settings
4. Respected by scholars and critics alike

The translation's enduring popularity is a testament to its quality and effectiveness as an introduction to Homer's epic world.

Legacy and Influence on Modern Readers

The Odyssey Robert Fagles translation has shaped how contemporary audiences experience and interpret The Odyssey. Its influence is evident in literature courses, popular media, and ongoing scholarly debates about translation philosophy. Through its widespread adoption and critical acclaim, Fagles' work has become a standard against which other translations are measured.

Continuing Relevance

- Revitalizes interest in classical literature
- Promotes understanding of ancient Greek culture
- Serves as a bridge between past and present

- Encourages new generations to explore epic poetry

Odyssey robert fagles remains a cornerstone for those seeking to appreciate the richness of Homer's masterpiece and its ongoing significance in world literature.

Frequently Asked Questions about odyssey robert fagles

Q: Who is Robert Fagles and what makes his Odyssey translation unique?

A: Robert Fagles was a distinguished American translator and professor known for his dynamic, accessible translations of ancient Greek epics. His Odyssey translation stands out for its lively language, scholarly notes, and ability to balance poetic rhythm with readability.

Q: How does the Fagles translation compare to other versions of The Odyssey?

A: Fagles' translation is praised for blending poetic energy with clarity, making it more engaging than highly literal versions like Lattimore's, while retaining more of Homer's style than prose translations like Rieu's.

Q: What are the main themes highlighted in the odyssey robert fagles translation?

A: Major themes include homecoming, heroism, identity, the power of storytelling, and the role of the gods in human destiny, all rendered with emotional depth and vivid imagery.

Q: Is the Robert Fagles Odyssey appropriate for academic study?

A: Yes, Fagles' Odyssey is widely used in schools and universities due to its comprehensive introductions, scholarly notes, and readable prose, making it suitable for both general readers and students.

Q: What distinguishes Fagles' approach to translating The Odyssey?

A: Fagles emphasizes narrative pace, vivid imagery, and poetic rhythm, while incorporating scholarly context, making his translation both faithful to the original and accessible.

Q: Why should readers choose the odyssey robert fagles translation?

A: Readers choose Fagles' Odyssey for its engaging style, authoritative notes, literary quality, and its reputation as a benchmark translation in classical literature.

Q: What role do Bernard Knox's introductions play in the Fagles edition?

A: Bernard Knox's introductions provide essential historical and literary context, helping readers understand the background, themes, and significance of Homer's epic.

Q: When was the Robert Fagles translation of The Odyssey published?

A: Robert Fagles' acclaimed translation of The Odyssey was published in 1996.

Q: How does the Fagles translation handle the oral tradition of

Homer's poetry?

A: Fagles pays close attention to the oral nature of Homer's work, preserving its musicality, rhythm, and dynamic storytelling for modern readers.

Q: Is the odyssey robert fagles translation suitable for first-time readers of Homer?

A: Yes, its accessible prose, informative notes, and engaging narrative make it an excellent choice for those new to Homer's epic poetry.

[Odyssey Robert Fagles](#)

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Odyssey Robert Fagles: A Journey Through Homer's Epic with Fagles' Masterful Translation

Homer's Odyssey stands as a cornerstone of Western literature, a timeless tale of heroism, perseverance, and homecoming. But accessing the raw power and beauty of the original Greek can be a challenge for many. This is where Robert Fagles' translation shines. This post delves deep into Fagles' Odyssey, exploring its merits, its impact, and why it remains the preferred version for countless readers and scholars. We'll examine its stylistic choices, its accessibility, and ultimately, its ability to bring Homer's epic to life for a modern audience. Prepare for a journey back to ancient Greece, guided by the masterful hand of Robert Fagles.

Fagles' Odyssey: A Translation that Transcends

Robert Fagles' translation of Homer's *Odyssey*, published in 1996, is widely considered one of the most successful and influential renderings of the epic poem in the English language. Unlike some translations that prioritize literal accuracy over readability, Fagles strikes a masterful balance. He captures the essence of the original Greek while maintaining a vibrant, engaging style that resonates with contemporary readers.

The Power of Poetic Prose

Fagles' approach isn't simply a line-by-line conversion; it's a poetic reimagining. He employs a rich, evocative language, peppered with vivid imagery and powerful verbs. This allows the epic's dramatic moments to truly explode on the page. His use of strong, active verbs gives the narrative a sense of immediacy, making the reader feel present in the scenes unfolding before them.

Accessibility Without Sacrifice

One of the biggest strengths of Fagles' *Odyssey* lies in its accessibility. He avoids overly archaic language, making the poem understandable without sacrificing the depth and complexity of Homer's original work. This accessibility makes the *Odyssey* approachable to a broader audience, including those unfamiliar with classical literature. This doesn't mean he simplifies; he simply finds a way to express the intricacies of the text in a way that is both faithful and engaging for a modern reader.

Capturing the Epic Scale

The *Odyssey* is a sprawling epic, encompassing a vast geographical landscape and a complex narrative structure. Fagles' translation masterfully captures this grand scope. He maintains the poem's rhythm and flow, allowing the reader to be swept along on Odysseus' long and perilous journey. The narrative's tension, its humor, and its pathos are all rendered with exceptional skill.

Beyond the Words: The Impact of Fagles' Translation

Fagles' *Odyssey* has had a significant impact on how the epic is perceived and understood in the modern world. Its accessibility has introduced countless readers to the wonders of Homer, sparking an interest in classical literature that might otherwise have remained dormant. The translation's popularity has cemented its place as a standard text in classrooms and universities worldwide. It has significantly influenced subsequent translations and adaptations of the *Odyssey*, setting a new standard for accuracy, readability, and poetic excellence.

Criticism and Debate

While widely lauded, Fagles' translation is not without its critics. Some argue that his stylistic choices occasionally stray too far from the literal meaning of the original text, sacrificing some nuances for the sake of readability. This is a common debate surrounding all translations, highlighting the inherent challenges of moving between languages. However, the consensus remains that Fagles' strengths far outweigh any perceived weaknesses.

Why Choose Fagles' Odyssey?

In conclusion, Robert Fagles' translation of Homer's Odyssey stands as a triumph of literary scholarship and artistic interpretation. Its poetic prose, accessibility, and ability to capture the epic scale of the original make it an unparalleled achievement. Whether you're a seasoned classicist or a newcomer to Homer's world, Fagles' Odyssey offers a profoundly rewarding and enriching reading experience. It's a translation that breathes life into an ancient epic, making it accessible and engaging for generations to come. It is, for many, the definitive English-language Odyssey.

FAQs

Q1: Is Fagles' Odyssey suitable for beginners?

A1: Absolutely! Fagles' translation is praised for its accessibility, making it perfect for readers new to Homer's epic. The language is clear and engaging without sacrificing the richness of the original.

Q2: How does Fagles' translation compare to other versions?

A2: While many excellent translations exist, Fagles' stands out for its balance of accuracy and readability. He manages to capture the epic's poetic beauty while making it readily accessible to modern readers. Other translations might prioritize literal accuracy at the expense of flow, or vice versa. Fagles finds a sweet spot in the middle.

Q3: Are there any study guides available for Fagles' Odyssey?

A3: Yes, numerous study guides, critical analyses, and companion texts are available to supplement your reading of Fagles' Odyssey. These resources can enrich your understanding of the poem's themes, characters, and historical context.

Q4: What makes Fagles' translation so popular?

A4: Its popularity stems from its accessibility, poetic language, and faithfulness to the original text. It successfully bridges the gap between ancient Greek and modern English, making Homer's epic accessible and engaging for a wide audience.

Q5: Is Fagles' translation suitable for academic study?

A5: While often chosen for its accessibility, Fagles' *Odyssey* is widely respected in academic settings. Its reputation for accuracy and its poetic merit make it a valuable resource for scholarly work, even as other, more literally-focused translations are also employed.

odyssey robert fagles: *The Odyssey* Homer, 1996 Magnificent translation of the *Odyssey* which captures the energy and poetry of Homer's original.

odyssey robert fagles: The Odyssey Homer, 1997-11-01 The great epic of Western literature, translated by the acclaimed classicist Robert Fagles A Penguin Classic Robert Fagles, winner of the PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation and a 1996 Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, presents us with Homer's best-loved and most accessible poem in a stunning modern-verse translation. Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns driven time and again off course, once he had plundered the hallowed heights of Troy. So begins Robert Fagles' magnificent translation of the *Odyssey*, which Jasper Griffin in the New York Times Book Review hails as a distinguished achievement. If the *Iliad* is the world's greatest war epic, the *Odyssey* is literature's grandest evocation of an everyman's journey through life. Odysseus' reliance on his wit and wiliness for survival in his encounters with divine and natural forces during his ten-year voyage home to Ithaca after the Trojan War is at once a timeless human story and an individual test of moral endurance. In the myths and legends retold here, Fagles has captured the energy and poetry of Homer's original in a bold, contemporary idiom, and given us an *Odyssey* to read aloud, to savor, and to treasure for its sheer lyrical mastery. Renowned classicist Bernard Knox's superb introduction and textual commentary provide insightful background information for the general reader and scholar alike, intensifying the strength of Fagles's translation. This is an *Odyssey* to delight both the classicist and the general reader, to captivate a new generation of Homer's students. This Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition features French flaps and deckle-edged paper. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

odyssey robert fagles: *The Iliad & The Odyssey* Homer, 2013-04-29 *The Iliad*: Join Achilles at the Gates of Troy as he slays Hector to Avenge the death of Patroclus. Here is a story of love and war, hope and despair, and honor and glory. The recent major motion picture *Helen of Troy* starring Brad Pitt proves that this epic is as relevant today as it was twenty five hundred years ago when it was first written. So journey back to the Trojan War with Homer and relive the grandest adventure of all times. *The Odyssey*: Journey with Ulysses as he battles to bring his victorious, but decimated, troops home from the Trojan War, dogged by the wrath of the god Poseidon at every turn. Having been away for twenty years, little does he know what awaits him when he finally makes his way home. These two books are some of the most import books in the literary cannon, having influenced virtually every adventure tale ever told. And yet they are still accessible and immediate and now you can have both in one binding.

odyssey robert fagles: *Aeneid* Virgil, 1889

odyssey robert fagles: *Odyssey* Homer, 2018-10-23 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

odyssey robert fagles: *The Odyssey* Homer, 2010-05-25 Penelope has been waiting for her husband Odysseus to return from Troy for many years. Little does she know that his path back to her has been blocked by astonishing and terrifying trials. Will he overcome the hideous monsters, beautiful witches and treacherous seas that confront him? This rich and beautiful adventure story is one of the most influential works of literature in the world.

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odyssey robert fagles: *Odyssey* Homer, 2019 Since their composition almost 3,000 years ago the Homeric epics have lost none of their power to grip audiences and fire the imagination: with their stories of life and death, love and loss, war and peace they continue to speak to us at the deepest level about who we are across the span of generations. That being said, the world of Homer is in many ways distant from that in which we live today, with fundamental differences not only in language, social order, and religion, but in basic assumptions about the world and human nature. This volume offers a detailed yet accessible introduction to ancient Greek culture through the lens of Book One of the *Odyssey*, covering all of these aspects and more in a comprehensive Introduction designed to orient students in their studies of Greek literature and history. The full Greek text is included alongside a facing English translation which aims to reproduce as far as feasible the word

order and sound play of the Greek original and is supplemented by a Glossary of Technical Terms and a full vocabulary keyed to the specific ways that words are used in *Odyssey I*. At the heart of the volume is a full-length line-by-line commentary, the first in English since the 1980s and updated to bring the latest scholarship to bear on the text: focusing on philological and linguistic issues, its close engagement with the original Greek yields insights that will be of use to scholars and advanced students as well as to those coming to the text for the first time.

odyssey robert fagles: *The Odyssey* Homer, 2018-03-28 The *Odyssey* is vividly captured and beautifully paced in this swift and lucid new translation by acclaimed scholar and translator Peter Green. Accompanied by an illuminating introduction, maps, chapter summaries, a glossary, and explanatory notes, this is the ideal translation for both general readers and students to experience The *Odyssey* in all its glory. Green's version, with its lyrical mastery and superb command of Greek, offers readers the opportunity to enjoy Homer's epic tale of survival, temptation, betrayal, and vengeance with all of the verve and pathos of the original oral tradition.

odyssey robert fagles: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, 1973-10-25 Gilgamesh, King of Uruk, and his companion Enkidu are the only heroes to have survived from the ancient literature of Babylon, immortalized in this epic poem that dates back to the 3rd millennium BC. Together they journey to the Spring of Youth, defeat the Bull of Heaven and slay the monster Humbaba. When Enkidu dies, Gilgamesh's grief and fear of death are such that they lead him to undertake a quest for eternal life. A timeless tale of morality, tragedy and pure adventure, *The Epic of Gilgamesh* is a landmark literary exploration of man's search for immortality.

odyssey robert fagles: *The Odyssey* Homer, 2016-10-20 'Tell me, Muse, of the man of many turns, who was driven far and wide after he had sacked the sacred city of Troy' Twenty years after setting out to fight in the Trojan War, Odysseus is yet to return home to Ithaca. His household is in disarray: a horde of over 100 disorderly and arrogant suitors are vying to claim Odysseus' wife Penelope, and his young son Telemachus is powerless to stop them. Meanwhile, Odysseus is driven beyond the limits of the known world, encountering countless divine and earthly challenges. But Odysseus is 'of many wiles' and his cunning and bravery eventually lead him home, to reclaim both his family and his kingdom. The *Odyssey* rivals the *Iliad* as the greatest poem of Western culture and is perhaps the most influential text of classical literature. This elegant and compelling new translation is accompanied by a full introduction and notes that guide the reader in understanding the poem and the many different contexts in which it was performed and read.

odyssey robert fagles: *The Odyssey of Homer* Homer Fagles, 2017-08-21 Literature's grandest evocation of life's journey, at once an ageless human story and an individual test of moral endurance, Homer's ancient Greek epic *The Odyssey* is translated by Robert Fagles with an introduction and notes by Bernard Knox in Penguin Classics. When Robert Fagles' translation of *The Iliad* was published in 1990, critics and scholars alike hailed it as a masterpiece. Here, one of the great modern translators presents us with *The Odyssey*, Homer's best-loved poem, recounting Odysseus' wanderings after the Trojan War. With wit and wile, the 'man of twists and turns' meets the challenges of the sea-god Poseidon, and monsters ranging from the many-headed Scylla to the cannibalistic Cyclops Polyphemus - only to return after twenty years to a home besieged by his wife Penelope's suitors. In the myths and legends retold in this immortal poem, Fagles has captured the energy of Homer's original in a bold, contemporary idiom. Seven Greek cities claim the honour of being the birthplace of Homer (c. 8th-7th century BC), the poet to whom the composition of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* are attributed. The *Iliad* is the oldest surviving work of Western literature, but the identity - or even the existence - of Homer himself is a complete mystery, with no reliable biographical information having survived. If you enjoyed *The Odyssey*, you might like Robert Fagles' translation of *The Iliad*, also available in Penguin Classics. 'Wonderfully readable ... Just the right blend of roughness and sophistication' Ted Hughes 'A memorable achievement ... Mr Fagles has been remarkably successful in finding a style that is of our time and yet timeless' Richard Jenkyns, *The New York Times Book Review* 'His translation of *The Odyssey* is his best work yet' Garry Wills, *New Yorker* Okay, so here's what happened. I went out after work with the guys, we went to a perfectly

nice bar, this chick was hitting on me but I totally brushed her off. Anyway we ended up getting pretty wrecked, and we might have smoked something in the bathroom, I'm not totally clear on that part, and then this gigantic one-eyed bouncer kicked us out so we somehow ended up at a strip club. The guys were total pigs but not me, seriously, that's not glitter on my neck. And then we totally drove right by these hookers without even stopping and here I am! Only a little bit late! By the way, I crashed the car and six of the guys are in jail. Ask for Officer Scylla.

ABOUT HOMER: In the Western classical tradition, Homer is considered the author of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, and is revered as the greatest of ancient Greek epic poets. These epics lie at the beginning of the Western canon of literature, and have had an enormous influence on the history of literature. When he lived is unknown. Herodotus estimates that Homer lived 400 years before his own time, which would place him at around 850 BCE, while other ancient sources claim that he lived much nearer to the supposed time of the Trojan War, in the early 12th century BCE. Most modern researchers place Homer in the 7th or 8th centuries BCE. The formative influence of the Homeric epics in shaping Greek culture was widely recognized, and Homer was described as the teacher of Greece. Homer's works, which are about fifty percent speeches, provided models in persuasive speaking and writing that were emulated throughout the ancient and medieval Greek worlds. Fragments of Homer account for nearly half of all identifiable Greek literary papyrus finds.

odyssey robert fagles: The Odyssey of Homer Andrew Lang, Samuel Henry Butcher, 2000

odyssey robert fagles: The Iliad Homer, Caroline Alexander, 2015-11-24 With her virtuoso translation, classicist and bestselling author Caroline Alexander brings to life Homer's timeless epic of the Trojan War. Composed around 730 B.C., Homer's *Iliad* recounts the events of a few momentous weeks in the protracted ten-year war between the invading Achaeans, or Greeks, and the Trojans in their besieged city of Ilium. From the explosive confrontation between Achilles, the greatest warrior at Troy, and Agamemnon, the inept leader of the Greeks, through to its tragic conclusion, *The Iliad* explores the abiding, blighting facts of war. Soldier and civilian, victor and vanquished, hero and coward, men, women, young, old—*The Iliad* evokes in poignant, searing detail the fate of every life ravaged by the Trojan War. And, as told by Homer, this ancient tale of a particular Bronze Age conflict becomes a sublime and sweeping evocation of the destruction of war throughout the ages. Carved close to the original Greek, acclaimed classicist Caroline Alexander's new translation is swift and lean, with the driving cadence of its source—a translation epic in scale and yet devastating in its precision and power.

odyssey robert fagles: Homer - The Iliad - The Odyssey Homer, 1996 A boxed set of the classic books 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey' by Homer. Translated by Robert Fagles, with an introduction and notes by Bernard Knox.

odyssey robert fagles: The Odyssey (Annotated) Homer Homer, 2020-02-05 Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns driven time and again off course, once he had plundered the hallowed heights of Troy. So begins Robert Fagles' magnificent translation of the *Odyssey*, which Jasper Griffin in *The New York Times Review of Books* hails as a distinguished achievement. If the *Iliad* is the world's greatest war epic, then the *Odyssey* is literature's grandest evocation of everyman's journey through life. Odysseus' reliance on his wit and williness for survival in his encounters with divine and natural forces, during his ten-year voyage home to Ithaca after the Trojan War, is at once a timeless human story and an individual test of moral endurance. In the myths and legends that are retold here, Fagles has captured the energy and poetry of Homer's original in a bold, contemporary idiom, and given us an *Odyssey* to read aloud, to savor, and to treasure for its sheer lyrical mastery. Renowned classicist Bernard Knox's superb Introduction and textual commentary provide new insights and background information for the general reader and scholar alike, intensifying the strength of Fagles' translation. This is an *Odyssey* to delight both the classicist and the public at large, and to captivate a new generation of Homer's students.—Robert Fagles, winner of the PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation and a 1996 Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, presents us with Homer's best-loved and most accessible poem in a stunning new modern-verse translation

odyssey robert fagles: *Freedom Libraries* Mike Selby, 2019-10-01 Freedom Libraries: The Untold Story of Libraries for African-Americans in the South. As the Civil Rights Movement exploded across the United States, the media of the time was able to show the rest of the world images of horrific racial violence. And while some of the bravest people of the 20th century risked their lives for the right to simply order a cheeseburger, ride a bus, or use a clean water fountain, there was another virtually unheard of struggle—this one for the right to read. Although illegal, racial segregation was strictly enforced in a number of American states, and public libraries were not immune. Numerous libraries were desegregated on paper only: there would be no cards given to African-Americans, no books for them read, and no furniture for them to use. It was these exact conditions that helped create Freedom Libraries. Over eighty of these parallel libraries appeared in the Deep South, staffed by civil rights voter registration workers. While the grassroots nature of the libraries meant they varied in size and quality, all of them created the first encounter many African-Americans had with a library. Terror, bombings, and eventually murder would be visited on the Freedom Libraries—with people giving up their lives so others could read a library book. This book delves into how these libraries were the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, and the remarkable courage of the people who used them. They would forever change libraries and librarianship, even as they helped the greater movement change the society these libraries belonged to. Photographs of the libraries bring this little-known part of American history to life.

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Polizzotti attempts to reframe the debate along more fruitful lines. Eschewing both these easy polarities and the increasingly abstract discourse of translation theory, he brings the main questions into clearer focus: What is the ultimate goal of a translation? What does it mean to label a rendering “faithful”? (Faithful to what?) Is something inevitably lost in translation, and can something also be gained? Does translation matter, and if so, why? Unashamedly opinionated, both a manual and a manifesto, his book invites us to sympathize with the translator not as a “traitor” but as the author's creative partner. Polizzotti, himself a translator of authors from Patrick Modiano to Gustave Flaubert, explores what translation is and what it isn't, and how it does or doesn't work. Translation, he writes, “skirts the boundaries between art and craft, originality and replication, altruism and commerce, genius and hack work.” In *Sympathy for the Traitor*, he shows us how to read not only translations but also the act of translation itself, treating it not as a problem to be solved but as an achievement to be celebrated—something, as Goethe put it, “impossible, necessary, and important.”

odyssey robert fagles: *Why Homer Matters* Adam Nicolson, 2014-11-18 Adam Nicolson writes popular books as popular books used to be, a breeze rather than a scholarly sweat, but humanely erudite, elegantly written, passionately felt...and his excitement is contagious.—James Wood, *The New Yorker* Adam Nicolson sees the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* as the foundation myths of Greek—and our—consciousness, collapsing the passage of 4,000 years and making the distant past of the Mediterranean world as immediate to us as the events of our own time. *Why Homer Matters* is a magical journey of discovery across wide stretches of the past, sewn together by the poems themselves and their metaphors of life and trouble. Homer's poems occupy, as Adam Nicolson writes a third space in the way we relate to the past: not as memory, which lasts no more than three generations, nor as the objective accounts of history, but as epic, invented after memory but before history, poetry which aims to bind the wounds that time inflicts. The Homeric poems are among the oldest stories we have, drawing on deep roots in the Eurasian steppes beyond the Black Sea, but emerging at a time around 2000 B.C. when the people who would become the Greeks came south and both clashed and fused with the more sophisticated inhabitants of the Eastern Mediterranean. The poems, which ask the eternal questions about the individual and the community, honor and service, love and war, tell us how we became who we are.

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