



THE
ODYSSEY
COLORING BOOK



Adams Media
An Imprint of Simon & Schuster, LLC
100 Technology Center Drive
Stoughton, MA 02072

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First Adams Media trade paperback edition June 2026

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Interior design by Kellie Emery

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Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN 978-1-5072-2655-1

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THE
ODYSSEY
COLORING BOOK

45 EPIC IMAGES TO BRING THE
ADVENTURE OF ODYSSEUS TO LIFE!

DOUG METZGER, PHD
Host of the *Literature and History* Podcast

Illustrated by CHARLI VINCE

Adams Media
New York Amsterdam/Antwerp London Toronto Sydney/Melbourne New Delhi

INTRODUCTION

An epic hero trying to get back home. A steadfast wife, equally courageous, but trapped and running out of time. And between them, a deep blue sea churning with perils, adventures, and strange, uncharted lands.

Ever since the earliest days of ancient Greece, artwork capturing scenes from Homer's *Odyssey* has been a part of the story's legacy. From painted pottery and colorful mosaics all the way to modern movies, images of the *Odyssey* have long given audiences a window into the rich traditions of ancient Greek mythology.

Here's the story of the *Odyssey* told in two paragraphs, if you'd like a review before you start coloring. The *Odyssey* is about an ancient Greek hero, Odysseus, who lived in the western part of the Greek world with his wife, Penelope, and his son Telemachus. Just after Telemachus was born, Odysseus went to fight in the Trojan War, which was taking place all the way on the other side of the Greek world, to the east. When the war ended ten years later, Odysseus and all the other westerners packed up their things and headed home. Some made the journey home quickly; others had a hard time making the return trip. Odysseus was one of the latter. He and his twelve ships quickly ran into trouble due to a combination of meddling gods, bad luck, and rebellious crewmen.

Meanwhile, back in Odysseus's kingdom of Ithaca, Telemachus and Penelope were facing challenges too. Over a hundred suitors wanted to marry Penelope, and they wouldn't leave her alone. Telemachus, with advice from the goddess Athena, went to seek help from some of his father's old acquaintances. As his wife and son fended for themselves, Odysseus suffered through harrowing adventures, losing many of his men and ships, until eventually only Odysseus was left. Exhausted, the hero washed up on the shore of a friendly people called the Phaeacians, and he told them of his experiences at sea. The Phaeacians *finally* got Odysseus home. Once back in his island kingdom of Ithaca, Odysseus still had to deal with the hundred plus arrogant men who had invaded his palace and bullied his wife and son. The story wraps up with Odysseus scheming against and then fighting the suitors and reestablishing control of his kingdom.

As you turn the pages of this coloring book, you'll find a brief explanation of each key scene on the back of its illustration. You can consider which colors to use to bring these characters to life, and do what generations of people have done from antiquity onward—use your imagination to make an ancient story your very own. What color is a Siren or the Cyclops? There are no right answers. These stories belong to all of us, and you get to decide how these images should look.

Grab your crayons, colored pencils, or markers, imagine yourself out on the wine-dark sea with the hero Odysseus, and celebrate the most famous story of ancient Greece!



ITHACA



ATHENS

SPARTA



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

TROY



AEGEAN SEA

GREECE

CRETE

WHERE DOES THE *ODYSSEY* TAKE PLACE?

The *Odyssey* is an adventure story, and so it has a lot of different settings. The story begins and ends, however, on Ithaca. Unlike many of the fantastic locations described throughout the story, Ithaca is a real place—an island off the west coast of modern-day Greece that you can still visit today.

