



# The Odyssey and Back to Blandon

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# The Myth Explained

- **Characters:**

**Odysseus** (main character), **Telemachus** (Odysseus's son), **Penelope** (Wife of Odysseus), **Athena** (Goddess of wisdom), **Poseidon** (God of seas), **Zeus** (King of gods and men), **Antinous** (Most arrogant of Penelope's suitors), **Eurymachus** (a deceitful and manipulative suitor), **Amphinomus** (only decent suitor), **Eumaeus** (a loyal shepherd), **Eurycleia** (an aged servant of Odysseus), **Calypso** (a beautiful nymph who falls in love with Odysseus), **Polyphemus** (a Cyclops), **Circe** (the beautiful witch goddess that turns Odysseus's crew into swine), **Laertes** (Odysseus's aging father), **Tiresias** (a Theban prophet who resides in the underworld), **Nestor** (king of Pylos and a veteran of the trojan war), **Menelaus** (king of Sparta), **Helen** (wife of Menelaus and queen of Sparta), **Agamemnon** (the former king of Mycenae and brother of Menelaus), **Nausicaa** (daughter of Alcinous), **Alcinous** (king of the Phaeacians), **Arete** (queen of the Phaeacians)

# The Myth Explained pt.2

## Summary:

- Odysseus, the main character hasn't come home to his Kingdom, Ithaca after 10 years since the fall of Troy. In the beginning, A mob of suitors have ransacked Odysseus's palace to try to marry Penelopeia.
- Unknown to the suitors, Odysseus is still alive and is looking to get home.
- During his adventures back to Ithaca, he runs into numerous obstacles eg. Scylla, a three headed monster who would devour sailors foolish enough to get in her way, Charybdis which was another sea monster who lived right next to Scylla, nowadays thought to be a whirlpool, or when he is trapped on an island with Calypso, a witch who has cast a spell on Odysseus to fall in love with her.
- Odysseus returns home to his palace and murders the suitors.
- Odysseus's son, Telemachus is now a young man.
- Odysseus and his family hides in the countryside in Ithaca
- The suitors vengeful family members are killed and Zeus sends Athena to restore peace in Ithaca.
- The long journey ends.

# Other novels influenced by The Odyssey

## **Don Quixote** by Miguel de Cervantes

- The hero in this novel has much in common with Odysseus: They are both on an epic journey and they share some same characteristics like bravery and heroism.

## **The Penelopiad** by Margaret Atwood

- In The Odyssey we are introduced to Odysseus's wife, Penelope. This novel is basically The Odyssey but from Penelope's point of view.

## **Cold Mountain** by Charles Frazier

- This novel is based during the American Civil War, and tells a story on how a wounded soldier is determined to get back to his wife.

## **The Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien

- In this novel, the protagonist Bilbo Baggins goes on an epic journey to defeat the dragon Smaug. Just like in the *Odyssey*, he is presented with lots of challenges and has to overcome many obstacles. Another similarity to Odysseus, who has defeated the Cyclops, is Bilbo's victory over Smaug which leads to him going back to the safety of his home.

# The Hobbit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOGsB9dORBg>

# The Odyssey - The Essentials

Themes: Hospitality, Vengeance & Homecoming

Conflicts: Two major conflicts; Odysseus' journey home & the conflict between Penelope (Odysseus' wife) and the suitors

Main characters: Odysseus, Penelope, Poseidon, Athena & Zeus

Climax: When Odysseus reveals his true identity to the suitors and slaughters them

Character flaw: Odysseus' hubris

# Back to Bandon by Michael Jeffrey Lee

A story about a son who returns home to his mother & meets his absent father.

Conflict: The returned son from abroad talks with his poor absent father

Theme: Poverty and the slumps related to a vacant properties

Character flaw: The son is forgetful of many things and careless.

Climax: When the father & son part ways by shaking hands

Discussion question: How are the short story and the myth comparable and how are they not?



# Why has the modern creator decided to use The Odyssey to base their story on?

The author of Back to Bandon has most likely decided to use The Odyssey as both stories relate to the theme of homecoming. The Odyssey is also an instantly recognizable piece of classic literature and holds a certain prestige to its name, making it an honorable story to base your own off of.

# Changes made to the story of The Odyssey in Back to Bandon

- Poverty in Back to Bandon
  - Back to Bandon has a central theme of poverty, as the characters are from a time when the US economy was not doing well. The Odyssey, on the other hand, is based on characters from rich families from ancient Greece.
- Back to Bandon's main character is a normal dude
  - The main character in Back to Bandon is a regular person returning from a trip abroad, while Odysseus is a war hero coming back after fighting and winning in bloody battles. This makes Back to Bandon's main character more relatable than Odysseus.

Thank you!!!1!11!!!