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| Book 1* Odysseus has been gone for 20 years.
* Athena begs Zeus to help Odysseus get home.
 | Books 2 - 4* Suitors are taking over Odysseus’ home in Ithaca and planning to kill his son.
* His son, Telemachus, visits Pylos to learn more about his father.
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| Books 5 – 8* Years 3 – 10 he has been held captive by a goddess named Calypso (Ogygia Island).
* Zeus sends Hermes to help Odysseus get home.
* Calypso doesn’t want to let him go, but Odysseus flatters her so she agrees.
* She helps build him a raft to get home.
* 20 days later he lands on Scheria and he is welcomed by King Alcinous.
* King Alcinous throws a banquet where Odysseus tells him the story of his journey home.
 | Book 9* At the banquet in Scheria
* Odysseus introduces himself and talks about what happened to him after he left Troy (#1)
* Ismarus (#2) – cicones (allies of the Trojans)
* Odysseus and his men rob the cicones, but they kill 72 of Odysseus’ men.
* Land of Lotus Eaters (#3) – he sends 3 of his men to see if they are friendly; they eat the lotus flower, so they lose hope or interest in returning home.
* He has to tie his men under the rowing benches to get them to come with him.
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| Book 10* Aeolus – Island of Wind King (#5)
* Gives him two gifts: fair west wind to get home quickly and safely and bag of bad winds /men open bad bag of winds – sent back Aeolus
* (#6) Land of Laestrygones (cannibals)- Only Odysseus ship survives the attack + 45 men
* (#7) Aeaea – Circe’s home (witch)
* She has lions and wolves as pets (under spell) - ½ of the men go check it out. One man Eurylochus stays back.
* Circle changes them into pigs.
* Eurylochus runs back to tell Odysseus
 | Book 10 Cont.* Eurylochus begs Odysseus to leave the land of Circe/Odysseus does not listen
* Hermes gives him moly, plant that makes him resist Circe
* Men are changed back but still in a trance
* Stays with Circe for one year - begs to go home
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| Book 11* (#8) Land of the Dead – Odysseus makes sacrifices to appease the dead.
* He runs into his shipmate, Elpenor, who died after getting drunk and falling off the roof, breaking his neck.
* Elpenor asks Odysseus to give him a proper funeral.
* Odysseus sees his mom, who died of a broken heart. She tells him that his family is mourning him and miss him.
* Tiresias, the blind prophet, warns Odysseus not to kill Helios’ cattle. He also tells him to make a sacrifice for Poseidon when he returns home. He also warns him what is awaiting him at home – suitors are trying to steal his wife.
 | Book 12* #9 Circe’s palace- she warms him about upcoming obstacles: Sirens, Scylla, and Charybdis
* Plug ears with beeswax to avoid Sirens’ temptation, hug the cliff and lose 6 men to the 6 headed monster instead of losing everybody to the whirpool
* Pass Sirens #10- O listens while tied to mast, men have beeswax in ears
* Pass Charybdis #11- men are scared so they hug cliff (cave)
* Pass Scylla #12 – six men eaten
* Pass Thrinacia #13 (Helios’ island)- men eat the cattle- payback Zeus throws thunderbolt- destroys ship and kills all men but O
* #14 Ogygia – Calypso’s Island (seven years)
* #15 King Alcinous – Scheria (tells story at banquet)
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| Books 13-15 (Part 2: The Homecoming)* King helps Odysseus get home.
* Odysseus doesn’t recognize his home.
* Athena helps him by making him look like an old man so no one will recognize him.
* Athena also tells Telemachus to return home, but tells him to stay with the swineherd.

(#16 – Ithica) | Book 16* Odysseus is still disguised as an old beggar.
* Odysseus reveals himself to his son.
* 100 suitors at his home.
* Odysseus tells Telemachus to go home and lock up all the weapons.
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| Book 17* Argos (Odysseus’ dog) is neglected while Odysseus is away. Eumaeus (swineherd) tells the beggar (O) that the dog a great hunting dog in his day.
* Argos recognizes Odysseus’ voice and then he dies.
* Odysseus goes home in disguise and the suitors mock him. Penelope wants to talk to him, but he says no because it may ruin his plan.
 | Books 18-20* 2 suitors who are rude (Antinous and Eurymachus).
* The beggar (O) tells Penelope he heard Odysseus is alive and is on his way home.
* Penelope proposes a very difficult contest to win her hand in marriage – the suitor must string Odysseus’ bow and shoot it through 12 sockets
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| Book 21* Penelope gets Odysseus’ bow and cries because she misses him.
* She describes the archery contest to the suitors and they start trying to string the bow.
* While the suitors try to string the bow, Odysseus reveals his identity to the swineherd (Eumaeus) and the cowherd.
* He proves his identity by showing them his scar, and they vow to fight for him and help him reclaim the throne.
* The beggar (O) asks to try to string the bow and orders the cowherd to lock the gates so no one can escape.
* Odysseus accomplishes the task and the suitors are shocked. He tells the suitors to get ready to have a celebratory feast.
* Odysseus and son are preparing to destroy the suitors.
 | Book 22* Odysseus shoots Antinous first with an arrow. Then he reveals his identity to the suitors.
* Eurymachus tries to blame everything on Antinous so the rest of the suitors aren’t killed. He promises gifts if their lives are spared.
* Odysseus shoots Eurymachus.
* Telemachus gets weapons for Odysseus while Odysseus holds the suitors off with arrows.
* Athena intervenes on Odysseus’ behalf by blocking the suitors arrows. She reveals herself (with her shield) and they back down.
* All suitors are killed.
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| Book 23* Odysseus prepares for his meeting with Penelope. Athena makes him very handsome for his reunion.
* When he confronts Penelope, she acts very cautiously because she has learned to be tough after so many years alone.
* Penelope tells her servant to move the bed for him, knowing that if it’s actually Odysseus, he would know it couldn’t be moved.
* Tearful, joyful reunion.
* At the end, townspeople are angry over the death of the suitors. Athena steps in and makes peace.
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