

La Odisea

A Bilingual Spanish-English
Retelling for Young Readers

The Odyssey

La Odisea / The Odyssey

A Bilingual Spanish-English Retelling for Young Readers

(American English Edition)

Text adapted by Frances Bianchi and illustrations by Mara Seronda

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Teacher Note – Using the Bilingual Edition

This bilingual Spanish–English edition of *The Odyssey* is designed as a literary retelling that can be read for enjoyment while also supporting classroom and educational use.

The aim of this edition is to preserve the power of the story while offering readers flexible access to the narrative through two languages. The bilingual format is intended to support comprehension and confidence without interrupting the rhythm, tone, or emotional flow of the text.

This note is addressed to teachers, educators, and adult mediators who wish to use this edition in learning contexts. It offers general guidance rather than prescriptive instruction, allowing each reader or classroom to approach the text in a way that best suits their needs.

About This Bilingual Edition

The Spanish and English texts presented in this book tell the same story, following the same characters, events, and narrative arc from beginning to end.

They are not conceived as word-for-word translations. Instead, each language version has been shaped as a literary retelling, carefully crafted so that each sentence is equivalent in meaning, while preserving tone, narrative coherence, and the natural flow of each language.

As a result, some expressions, sentence structures, or stylistic choices may differ between languages, even when the underlying idea remains the same. This is intentional and reflects the nature of storytelling across languages rather than direct translation.

Readers may engage with the text in different ways:

- by reading the entire story in one language,
- by alternating languages by chapter or section,
- or by occasionally consulting one language to support understanding of the other.

All of these approaches are valid and consistent with the design of this edition.

Reading the Story in Two Languages

There is no single correct way to read a bilingual book, and students should not feel required to move constantly between languages.

When reading across two languages, comprehension should always come before translation. Readers are encouraged to focus first on what is happening in the story: the actions, decisions, motivations, and emotions of the characters.

In some moments, comparing short passages can help readers notice how ideas, descriptions, or emotions are conveyed differently in each language while serving the same narrative purpose. In other moments, sustained reading in a single language may be more effective in maintaining immersion and enjoyment.

The bilingual format should be understood as a support tool rather than a reading obligation.

Using This Edition in the Classroom

This edition may be used in a variety of educational contexts, including:

- guided or shared reading,
- independent reading,
- paired or small-group discussion,
- bilingual or dual-language learning settings,
- and home reading with classroom follow-up.

Student responses may be oral or written and may be completed in either language, depending on instructional goals and learner needs.

A Note on Language and Story

The *Odyssey* is first and foremost a story.

While this bilingual edition supports language development, its primary purpose is to invite readers into the narrative — to follow Odysseus’s journey, understand the choices he makes, and reflect on the themes of endurance, responsibility, loss, and return.

Avoid reducing the text to isolated vocabulary or word-by-word translation. Engagement with the plot, characters, and emotional weight of the story should remain central.

Connection to Classroom Resources

This bilingual edition shares the same core English narrative as the Classroom Edition of *The Odyssey*.

For this reason, existing Classroom Resources — including student activities and discussion materials — may be used alongside this book when available, offering opportunities to revisit key episodes and extend understanding beyond the text.

Suggested Reading Pathways

Depending on student profiles and instructional goals, this bilingual edition may be approached in different ways.

Some possible pathways include:

- Single-Language Reading with Bilingual Support
- Students read the full story in one language, using the second language only when needed to clarify meaning or confirm understanding.
- Alternating Language Reading
- Chapters or sections are read alternately in Spanish and English, allowing students to experience the full narrative in both languages over time.
- Comparative Moments
- Most of the story is read in one language, with selected passages revisited in the other language to reflect on tone, word choice, or narrative voice.

These pathways are not fixed models but flexible options. Teachers are encouraged to adapt them to their classroom context and to students' confidence, proficiency, and reading habits.

This bilingual edition invites readers to move between languages while remaining anchored in the story — much like Odysseus himself, navigating unfamiliar paths while holding firmly to his destination.