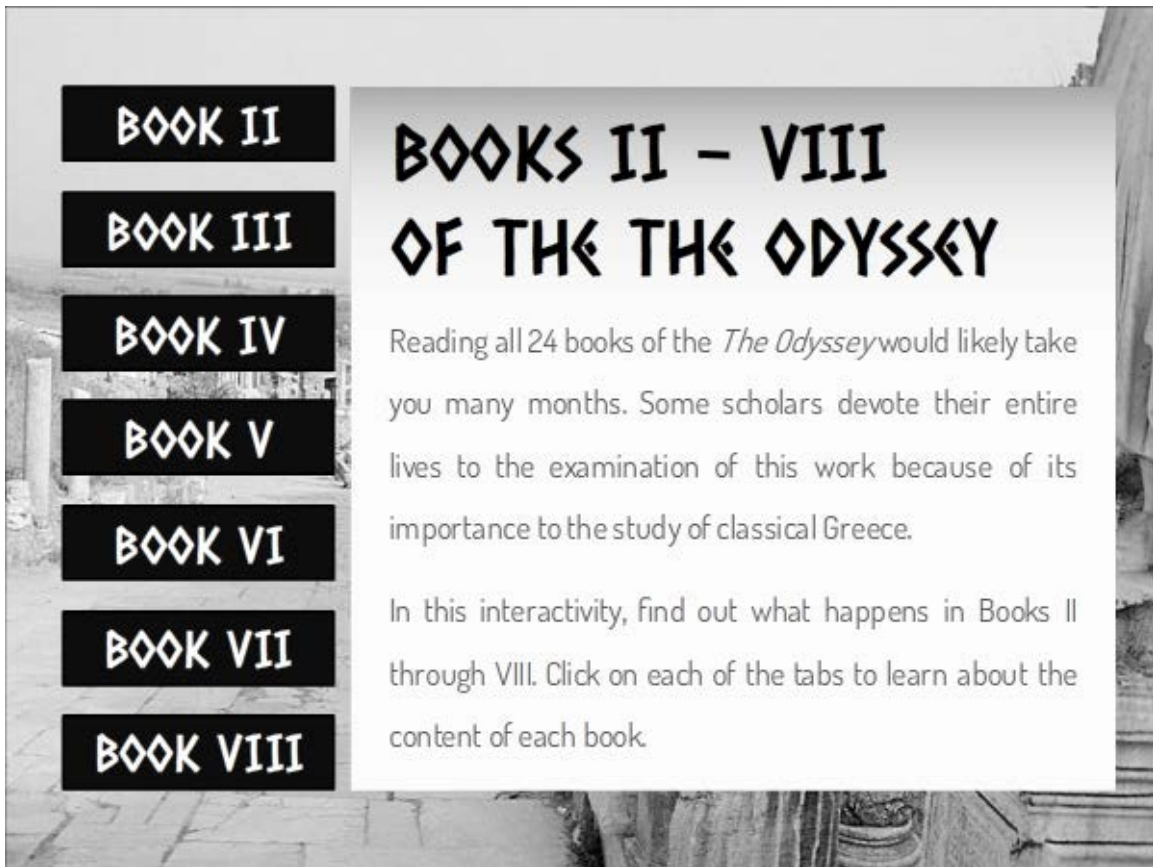


**Module 7: The Epic - *The Odyssey***  
**Topic 2 Content: Books II - VIII of *The Odyssey* Notes**

The image shows a digital interface with a vertical sidebar on the left containing seven black tabs labeled 'BOOK II' through 'BOOK VIII' in white, stylized font. The main content area on the right has a white background with the title 'BOOKS II - VIII OF THE THE ODYSSEY' in a large, bold, black, stylized font. Below the title, there are two paragraphs of text in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The background of the interface is a grayscale image of a classical building's exterior.

**BOOKS II - VIII  
OF THE THE ODYSSEY**

Reading all 24 books of the *The Odyssey* would likely take you many months. Some scholars devote their entire lives to the examination of this work because of its importance to the study of classical Greece.

In this interactivity, find out what happens in Books II through VIII. Click on each of the tabs to learn about the content of each book.


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**Module 7: The Epic - *The Odyssey***  
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**BOOK II**

- Telemachus calls a meeting of the Ithacans
- Telemachus accuses the suitors of bad behavior
- Antinous blames it on Penelope and urges Telemachus to get rid of her or force her to marry
- Zeus sends two eagles to disrupt the meeting
- Telemachus prays to Athena and she helps him ready for his journey



Telemachus calls all of the people in Ithaca together, including the suitors who are waiting around to try and marry Penelope. At this meeting, he complains about the behavior of the suitors. One of these men, Antinoös, blames their behavior on Penelope. He says that by refusing to get married again quickly, she has brought this upon the household. He goes on to insist that Telemachus either get rid of his mother or force her to marry. Right after his speech, Zeus sends two eagles to disrupt the meeting. This is taken as a sign that Odysseus will indeed be coming home. Telemachus prays to the gods and Athena comes back and helps him get ready for his journey by getting together a crew. Disguised as Mentor, she sets off with Telemachus and the other men.

**Module 7: The Epic - *The Odyssey***  
**Topic 2 Content: Books II - VIII of *The Odyssey* Notes**

**BOOK II**

**BOOK III**

**BOOK IV**

**BOOK V**


**BOOK VI**

**BOOK VII**

**BOOK VIII**

## BOOK III

- Telemachus arrives in Pylos
- The people of Pylos welcome the travelers with a feast
- Nestor speaks kindly of Odysseus
- Nestor tells the story of Agamemnon and Menelaus
- He then tells of Orestes' revenge
- Athena reveals herself to Nestor and Telemachus



Telemachus arrives in Pylos where Nestor is the king. As he arrives, the people in Pylos are making sacrifices to Poseidon. They ask the travelers from Ithaca to join in. In a proper demonstration of *xenia*, Nestor also throws a feast for them. After the feast, Telemachus gives a speech and talks to Nestor about Odysseus with whom he fought in the Trojan War. Nestor is complimentary of Odysseus and relays to Telemachus the conflict between two Greek kings, Agamemnon and Menelaus, after the end of the war. Odysseus was caught in their conflict, but ultimately stayed with Agamemnon to give sacrifices to Athena. Nestor tells Telemachus about Agamemnon's death by his wife and her lover after he returned from the war. Agamemnon's son Orestes took revenge, and this makes Telemachus want to take revenge on his mother's suitors. Athena reveals herself to all of the people gathered, and Nestor and the Ithacans make a sacrifice to her the next morning before Telemachus and his men leave to go to Sparta.

**Module 7: The Epic - *The Odyssey***  
**Topic 2 Content: Books II - VIII of *The Odyssey* Notes**

**BOOK II**

**BOOK III**

**BOOK IV**

**BOOK V**


**BOOK VI**

**BOOK VII**

**BOOK VIII**


## BOOK IV

- Telemachus arrives in Sparta where he is welcomed
- King Menelaus talks about his friendship with Odysseus
- King Menelaus and Helen tell stories about Odysseus
- King Menelaus tells his story about the Trojan War
- Telemachus plans to return to Pylos
- The suitors plan to ambush Telemachus when he returns




Book IV is also about the travels of Telemachus. This time, he and his men arrive in Sparta and King Menelaus demonstrates *xenia* by inviting them to a wedding feast immediately. King Menelaus tells Telemachus how happy he was to get home to Sparta after the war and how much he misses Odysseus. Menelaus' wife is there. Her name is Helen and she was the woman over whom the Greeks and the Trojans were fighting. Both she and Menelaus tell funny stories about Odysseus to make Telemachus feel better. The next morning, Menelaus tells Telemachus about his own troubles getting home from the Trojan War. Telemachus takes off for Pylos. In Ithaca, the suitors find out that Telemachus is gone and make a plan to ambush him and his men at sea when they return home.

**Module 7: The Epic - *The Odyssey***  
**Topic 2 Content: Books II - VIII of *The Odyssey* Notes**



**BOOK V**

- Athena appeals to Zeus to let Odysseus go
- Zeus sends Hermes to help Odysseus
- Calypso accuses the male gods of doing things that the female deities are not allowed to do
- She helps Odysseus leave
- Poseidon sends a storm
- A sea nymph and Athena help him to safety
- Odysseus arrives to land safely



Athena appeals to Zeus to FINALLY let Odysseus go from the island where he has been trapped by Calypso. Zeus sends Hermes to help Odysseus escape. Calypso is welcoming to Hermes until he tells her to let Odysseus leave. She accuses the male gods of gladly taking mortal lovers while not allowing female deities to do so. She finally relents and helps Odysseus get on his way with a raft and food supplies. Because he is still angry, Poseidon sends a storm to try to kill Odysseus, but both a sea nymph and Athena help him. Odysseus arrives at land two days later and rests by a river.

**Module 7: The Epic - *The Odyssey***  
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**BOOK II**

**BOOK III**

**BOOK IV**

**BOOK V**


**BOOK VI**

**BOOK VII**

**BOOK VIII**

## BOOK VI

- Athena encourages the local princess to go to the river to do laundry with her maids
- They find Odysseus
- Odysseus follows directions from the princess back to the city of the Phaeacians
- The princess tells him to wait and then beg for the queen's mercy
- Odysseus prays to Athena



Athena encourages the local princess to go to the river to do laundry with her maids. When they arrive, they find Odysseus. After he bathes and clothes himself with garments from the princess, Odysseus follows directions from the princess back to the city of the Phaeacians. The princess tells him to wait in the garden. When the queen arrives, he should beg her for mercy. While he is going to the palace, Odysseus prays to Athena that the local people will be friendly, and she hears him.

**Module 7: The Epic - *The Odyssey***  
**Topic 2 Content: Books II - VIII of *The Odyssey* Notes**

**BOOK II**

**BOOK III**

**BOOK IV**

**BOOK V**

**BOOK VI**

**BOOK VII**

**BOOK VIII**

## BOOK VII

- Athena appears to Odysseus and leads him
- Odysseus begs the queen for mercy
- Odysseus tells the story about leaving Calypso
- The king offers the princess' hand in marriage
- Odysseus chooses to go home

An illustration showing two teams of rowers on a body of water. The rowers are depicted in silhouette, using oars to propel their boats. The water is represented by simple, curved lines indicating waves or ripples.

Athena appears to Odysseus as a child and leads him to the palace. She also gives him protection so that people in the city cannot see him wandering around. When he arrives at the palace, he begs the queen for mercy and she relents. She notices that Odysseus is wearing clothes from the princess and asks him to explain why. He tells her his story starting with leaving Calypso and ending with him arriving in the city. Both the king and queen feel badly for him and the king offers him the princess as a bride. Instead, Odysseus chooses to go home, and the king offers him boats and rowers to get there. At this point, the Phaeacian people have no idea who Odysseus is.

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**BOOK II**

**BOOK III**

**BOOK IV**

**BOOK V**


**BOOK VI**

**BOOK VII**

**BOOK VIII**

**BOOK VIII**

- Odysseus and his men attend a banquet
- A bard tells the story of Odysseus
- Odysseus participates in athletic games
- The king asks Odysseus who he is
- Odysseus prepares to tell his own story



In the city, a banquet is thrown for Odysseus, and the king prepares the fleet for him to leave. At a feast, a bard tells a story of Odysseus and the other great Greek warrior Achilles. It makes Odysseus extremely sad. The king calls for athletic games during which Odysseus proves how physically fit he is. Afterwards, it is time for more storytelling, and the king asks Odysseus who he is and why the stories about the Trojan War make him so sad. Odysseus gets ready to tell his own personal story.