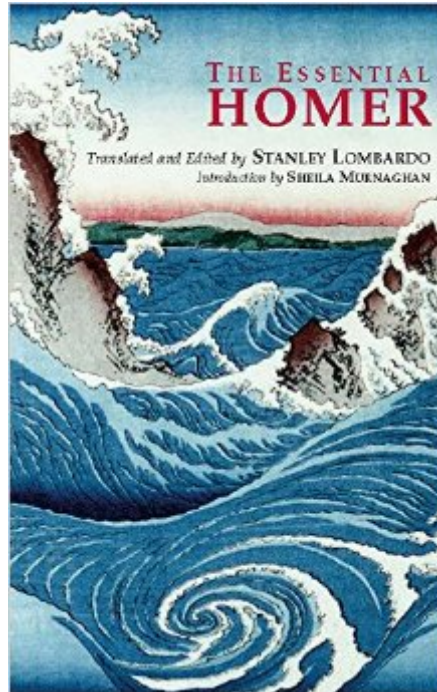


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The Essential Homer (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

Selections from both Iliad and Odyssey, made with an eye for those episodes that figure most prominently in the study of mythology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lombardo's translations of Homer are brilliant, energetic, and fun to read. While other translations are as dry and dusty as ancient Greek itself, Lombardo remarkably manages to bring it all to life, and reading both the Iliad and the Odyssey are as interesting and exciting as reading the most fascinating and lurid novel you've ever had in your hands. The best thing about this edition is that it has MAPS in the front, and NAME GLOSSARIES in the back (for both the Iliad and the Odyssey). This edition is abridged, but I found that only long, tedious descriptions of preparations for battles seemed to be missing. This is the ideal student text. (If you are looking for the best FULL edition ever, Lombardo's entire translations of the Iliad and Odyssey are also available. If I could give it six stars, I would.

I had to use this book for a school project. This version by Stanley Lombardo is great, and the refreshed modern day speaking makes the book easier to get through. Furthermore, the character guides and reference to other books in the back proved to be very helpful!

To be fair, I have not yet read the full versions of either the Iliad or the Odyssey. Thus, it is perhaps difficult to accurately review a book that omits sections of the two aforementioned epics. I had Dr. Lombardo for an Intro. Greek and Roman Myth class one year ago, and the man is, by all accounts, a Genius. One need only to look at his prolific career of translations to agree, but listening to his unparalleled eloquence in lecture makes me confident that I am right in calling him a brilliant man. As such, I am equally confident that Lombardo has provided the reader with the bare necessities to Homer. He does not sacrifice any of the storyline but condenses the less salient scenes. Even with some of the story purged, both the Iliad and the Odyssey are quite enjoyable reads. Lombardo's translation is highly readable, some would say too casual. His explanation for this, given in class, is simple: the ancient bards did not tell these stories in a formal tone. Lombardo is being true to the reader by avoiding the verbosity of other translators. I've read excerpts of Fagles' translation of the Odyssey, and I didn't find the same emotion and appeal as I did reading Lombardo's work. The scholar would perhaps suggest trying several versions of the Iliad and Odyssey. For the Everyman, this should suit him perfectly. Also try: Ovid's Metamorphosis trans. by Lombardo - The only other work of his I've read.

I am really enjoying this book so far. The simple and efficient method of translation this book uses really helps to make it a smooth read while still getting immersed into the story. The techniques the translator uses helps to make the story seem to progress much faster than that of say, Lattimore who's word choices and lengthy sentences slow down the story, making sure to catch every detail. Both are brilliant nonetheless and avid readers should definitely try both. Someone actually mentioned that the style that this book is translated in makes for a good, quickly progressing, and modernized play that should be enjoyable for all audiences.

I bought this book for my daughter who needed it for one of her classes. I was worried that, because there are so many different translations of this book from the original text, I would get the wrong one. The book arrived in great condition and my daughter, who has studied Latin, found the book to be very well translated from the original version.

The Iliad isn't my favorite, but the Odyssey is fantastic. As with Lombardo's other translations, the prose is very readable and enticing. I don't quite understand why he cut so much out, nor the logic behind some of the omissions, but there are many other translations available that have the full text.

This book was advised to buy for my CAMS course at PSU. I am glad I did purchase it. Not only did it help for the course it is an excellent read. Stanley Lombardo translated the condensed version of the Iliad and the Odyssey better than any of the other writings I had access to view. Plain literary genius.

The introduction is absolutely marvelous. It is a succinct introduction to the history of oral poetry. The translation is most appealing to the upper level, junior and senior high school year, student. Before I put this on my recommended reading for the Latin AP student I did have my high school principal check the translation. She gave a "thumbs up" approval for the more mature students who would be using it. The students were also thrilled with the translation. The student appreciates the fact that the story line is held to what is necessary and the language "is our style."

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