Synopsis of *Odyssey* Books 1-12

[The line numbers follow the Greek text in the 1917 Oxford edition by T.W. Allen]

Book 1: Council of the gods and Athena's exhortations to Telemachus
1-10 Proem
11-21 Poseidon's wrath
22-95 Council and deliberations of the other gods
96-112 Athena disguised as Mentes
113-43 Guest is received
144-54 Suitors dine
155-305 Athena (disguised as Mentes) advises Telemachus
306-24 Guest takes leave
325-424 Phemius and Penelope: Telemachus and the Suitors
425-44 Telemachus goes to bed

Book 2: Ithacans' council and Telemachus' voyage
1-14 Assembly gathers
15-81 Speeches of Aegyptios and Telemachus
82-128 Antinoos' reply
129-56 Telemachus' reply and Zeus' prodigy
157-207 Aliterses' speech and Eurymachus' reply
208-59 Mentor supports Telemachus' request for a ship, but Leocritus denies it and the meeting is adjourned.
260-95 Disguised as Mentor, Athena promises Telemachus a ship
296-336 Telemachus has a potentially violent and dangerous argument with the Suitors
337-412 Clandestine preparations for Telemachus' departure
413-34 Embarkation

Book 3: At Nestor's Court in Pylos
1-64 Arrival and disboarding during a sacrifice to Poseidon
65-101 Telemachus tells Nestor about the scope of his journey: To get news about his father
102-200 Nestor's reply
201-52 Overwhelmed by negativity, Telemachus feels discouraged and disheartened
253-355 Nestor tells about Agamemnon's death and offers hospitality
356-84 Upon her disappearing, Athena is recognized by Nestor
385-403 The day comes to an end
404-72 Morning service to Athena: sacrifice
473-97 On the road to Sparta

Book 4: At Menelaus' Court in Lacedaemon (= Sparta)
1-67 Arrival during the wedding of Menelaus' son and daughter
68-112 Dialogue with Menelaus and his first report
113-82 Telemachus, who weeps at hearing his father's name, is recognized
183-295 Reminiscing and chatting through the evening
296-331 Menelaus questions Telemachus
332-592 Second report by Menelaus and the prophecy of the Old Man of the Sea
593-624 Menelaus' gifts
625-74 Plots against Telemachus on Ithaca
675-714 The herald Medon informs Penelope
715-67 Penelope's grief and her prayer to Athena
768-86 Departure of the Suitors on their way to ambush Telemachus
Book 5: Odysseus' raft
1-42 Council of the Gods
43-148 Hermes and Calypso
149-227 Calypso confers with Odysseus about his departure
228-61 Odysseus builds his raft
262-81 O. takes leave from Calypso
282-312 Poseidon sends a storm
313-64 White Goddess
365-98 Long swim
399-462 Landing on the Phaeacians' island
462-93 Rest

Book 6: Odysseus' arrival among the Phaeacians
1-19 Resumé about the Phaeacians
20-47 Nausicæa's dream
48-77 Nausicaa requests and obtains the carriage
78-109 Nausicæa at the stream
110-38 Odysseus wakes up and scares the girls
139-97 Odysseus and Nausicæa
198-250 Naked guest is fed and covered
251-320 Return to the city
321-31 Odysseus is waiting in Athena's grove

Book 7: Odysseus enters Alkynoos' hall
1-13 The young woman at the palace
14-45 Disguised as a young woman, Athena leads Odysseus
46-77 Story of Arete and Alcynoos
78-132 Odysseus admires Alcynoos' palace and his vineyard
133-77 Odysseus is given welcome
178-229 Alcynoos' promises, princes take leave
230-333 Odysseus talks to his hosts
334-47 Odysseus rests at the palace

Book 8: Odysseus among the Phaeacians
1-45 Council of the Phaeacians
46-71 Preparations of escorting and banquet
72-103 Demodochus' song and Odysseus' tears
104-30 Competitions in the guest's honor
131-233 Odysseus shows off with the discus throw
234-384 Songs and dances with the interlude of 266-366: Loves of Ares and Aphrodite
385-453 The Phaeacians' gifts and Odysseus' bath
454-68 Odysseus says goodbye to Nausicæa
469-531 Demodochus sings again on a themes O. has suggested. O. weeps again
532-86 Alcynoos asks his guests name, homeland, story (his vicissitudes?)

Book 9: Odysseus' Narrative: Cyclops (and other lies?)
1-38 Odysseus' epiphany
39-61 Cycones
62-81 Storm
82-104 Lotus-eaters
105-69 Island of Goats
170-215 Island of Cyclopes
216-30 Cyclops' cave
231-306 Cyclops' savagery and cruelty
307-35 O. plots revenge
336-74 Getting the Cyclops drunk
375-414 Blinding the Cyclops
415-43 The ruse of the sheep
44-60 The ruse of the ram
461-542 O. provokes the Cyclops who invokes his father Poseidon
543-66 Back to Capri

Book 10: More lies? Aeolus, Laestrygonians, Circe
1-79 Aeolus' hospitality and his gift of the 'windbag'
80-132 Only Odysseus' ship survives the massacre of the Laestrygonians
133-97 Circe's Island
198-243 O.'s companions bound by Circe's magic
244-73 Eurylochus
274-306 Hermes
307-74 O. and Circe
375-405 Undoing the spell on the companions and Circe's hospitality
406-68 A year at Circe's
469-540 Companions ask to leave but Circe orders them to go to Hell
541-74 Elpenor's death. Departure from Circe's island

Book 11: Nekyia or The Evocation of the Dead
1-50 Arrival and sacrifice
51-83 Elpenor
84-9 Mother's ghost turned away
90-151 Tiresias' prophecy
152-224 Mother's ghost received
225-332 Famous women
333-84 Interlude: Phaeacians keep O. with promise of new gifts
385-464 Back to Hell: Heroes: Agamemnon
465-540: Achilles
541-67: Ajax
568-629: Demigods, Minos' Hades
630-40: Back from Hell

Book 12: Sirens, Scylla and Charybdis, Cattle of the Sun
1-30 Back to Circe's: Elpenor's burial
31-142 Circe's instructions
143-64 Departure
165-200 Sirens
201-59 Scylla and Charybdis
260-311 The Island of the Sun (= Helios)
312-38 Prisoners of the south wind
339-73 Hunger and Eurylochus' bad advice
374-96 The wrath of Helios
397-419 Punishment
420-53 Odysseus' ends his narrative