

Reading books from a different time in history is a great way to look back on and see what life was like during that time period. History books are always good for this kind of thing but do not always describe how the people lived back then. Literature from that time gives you an understanding that history books don't provide. In Homer's The Odyssey the author shows what life was like in Ancient Greece and especially what the people thought of as heroes and what traits these heroes had. Homer especially shows that good heroes are very brave and courageous and that good heroes are also very smart and wise.

Throughout The Odyssey Homer described the main hero, Odysseus, as a very brave and courageous person. Odysseus is thought of many times throughout the poem that he excels every man in leadership and is very brave and not scared of any task. "Fighting to save his life, and bring his comrades home." (1.6) Homer shows that Odysseus is brave enough to make the journey home and is not afraid of failure. He also not only cared about himself but others. Odysseus could've easily just gone on his own and had all the food for himself and wouldn't have to take care of the others but he was courageous enough to help them too. The reader can see that bravery is one of the traits that Ancient Greeks looked for in their heroes.

Another trait Ancient Greeks look for in their heroes is wisdom. Even the Gods recognize "Odysseus, master of craft" (19.116) as a very smart and wise person. Homer shows that not only Odysseus is smart overall but that he is very

wise and crafty in war strategy or arguments too. Homer emphasizes on how wise Odysseus is by having Zeus, the king of the gods, compliment him. "Great Odysseus who excels all men in wisdom." (1.78-79) Homer shows that even the Gods, who rule over every mortal, recognize Odysseus as not just very wise, but the wisest. Homer also adds the word "excel" and the reader can tell that Homer wants to really separate Odysseus and his wisdom from everyone else. With the Gods complimenting and showing that Odysseus is far beyond everyone else's skills in wisdom and wits the reader can clearly see that this is another important trait that Ancient Greeks desire in their heroes.