

History Odyssey: Ancients Level Two

Alternative Books and Additions



As the world changes, so does historiography. The approaches and methods used to tell the story of history are rapidly evolving to reflect a more inclusive, holistic view of world history. There are new resources, materials, and research that, even in just the past few years, have revealed how history as a subject has missed, marginalized, or distorted the past for many people and communities.

As I work on writing a new History Odyssey series, my goal is to present middle and high school students with a history education that embodies an intersectional, balanced, global experience that connects them with concepts and skills while underlining the impact the past has had on current events.

In the meantime, I've created a list of some alternative books to use with the current History Odyssey Level Two series that are more aligned with the goals mentioned above but still fit within the framework of the existing curriculum.

Thanks for choosing History Odyssey,

—*Samantha Matalone Cook, MAT*

Below is a list of titles from Ancients Level Two and the alternative books that could be read in their place or that could be added. Also included is a lesson schedule for the alternative books and additions.

The Story of Mankind by Hendrik Willem Van Loon

- ★ ***History Quest: Early Times* by Lisa Hawkins.** History Quest, created for young children as a read-aloud, is appropriate for middle school students as a silent read.

Tales of Ancient Egypt by Roger Lancelyn Green

- ★ ***Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters, and Mortals* by Donna Jo Napoli and Christina Balit.** A National Geographic book that is illustration-heavy and might be attractive to students on the younger end of this age group or for those who like a lot of artwork in their books.

The Golden Goblet by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

- ★ ***The Wadjet Eye* by Jill Rubalcaba**
- ★ ***Pharaoh's Daughter: A Novel of Ancient Egypt* by Julius Lester**
- ★ ***Mara, Daughter of the Nile* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw**

The Children's Homer by Padraic Colum

- ★ ***Black Ships Before Troy* by Rosemary Sutcliff**
- ★ ***The Wanderings of Odysseus* by Rosemary Sutcliff**

More alternatives: If you have older kids or kids who love graphic novels, the following are a great summary of the story, but do contain some more mature imagery (graphic violence and nudity) that illustrate the story.

- ★ ***The Iliad* by Gareth Hinds (A Graphic Novel Adaptation)**
- ★ ***The Odyssey* by Gareth Hinds (A Graphic Novel Adaptation)**

Greek Myths by Olivia Coolidge

- ★ ***D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths***

Theras and His Town by Caroline Dale Snedeker

- ★ ***The Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff**

Additions: *The Eagle of the Ninth* stands alone, but is part of a trilogy, should your student want to continue the story.

- ★ ***The Silver Branch* by Rosemary Sutcliff**
- ★ ***The Lantern Bearers* by Rosemary Sutcliff**

Caesar's Gallic War by Olivia Coolidge

★ **City: A Story of Roman Planning and Construction** by David Macaulay

Additional books that could be added to Ancients Level Two

★ **Gilgamesh the Hero** by Geraldine McCaughrean and David Parkins

★ **The Golden Bull** by Marjorie Cowley

★ **Pyramid** by David Macaulay

★ **Feathered Serpent Dark Heart of Sky: Myths of Mexico** by David Bowles

Reading schedule

Ancients Level Two Resources	Alternative and Added Books	Suggested Alternative Reading Schedule
<i>The Kingfisher History Encyclopedia</i>		The entire study guide is based on this encyclopedia, use this text as suggested.
<i>The Story of Mankind</i>	<i>History Quest: Early Times</i> from Pandia Press	Refer to the TOC in <i>Early Times</i> to match chapters to many of the lessons in Ancients Level Two.
<i>The History Odyssey Timeline</i> from Pandia Press		Use as suggested.
Additional books for Part II: Control of Mesopotamia	<i>Gilgamesh the Hero</i> by Geraldine McCaughrean and David Parkins <i>The Golden Bull</i> by Marjorie Cowley	Read during lessons 4–8.
<i>Tales of Ancient Egypt</i>	<i>Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters, and Mortals</i> by Donna Jo Napoli and Christina Balit	Read during lesson 11.
Additional book for Part III: Meet the Egyptians	<i>Pyramid</i> by David Macaulay	Read during lesson 13.
<i>The Golden Goblet</i>	<i>The Wadjet Eye</i> by Jill Rubalcaba <i>Pharaoh's Daughter: A Novel of Ancient Egypt</i> by Julius Lester <i>Mara, Daughter of the Nile</i> by Eloise Jarvis McGraw	Read during lesson 12.
Additional book for Part X: Ancient Americas	<i>Feathered Serpent Dark Heart of Sky: Myths of Mexico</i> by David Bowles	Read during lesson 35-37. Students can read the whole book or choose a selection of stories to read. Make sure students read the introduction, which is very informative. You may choose to save the last section "Conquest & Courage" to read in Middle Ages Level Two.
<i>The Children's Homer</i>	<i>Black Ships Before Troy</i> by Rosemary Sutcliff <i>The Wanderings of Odysseus</i> by Rosemary Sutcliff	Read during lessons 45–49.
<i>Greek Myths</i>	<i>D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths</i>	Read during lessons 52–57.
<i>Theras and His Town</i>	<i>The Eagle of the Ninth</i> by Rosemary Sutcliff	Read during lessons 59–65.