



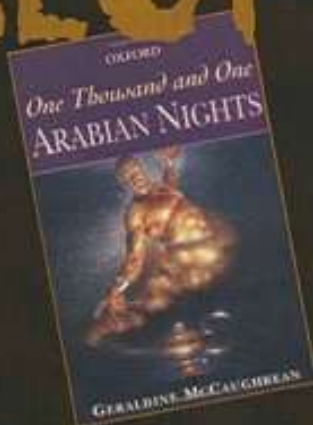
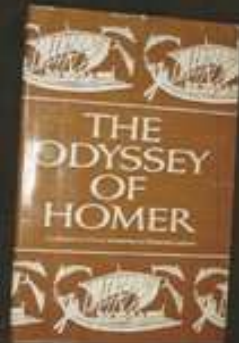
Black Heart Enterprises



CYCLOPS

Cyclops sculpture by Joe Simon; Cyclops buildup by Steven Parke; profile layout by Steven Parke

CYCLOPS PROFILE



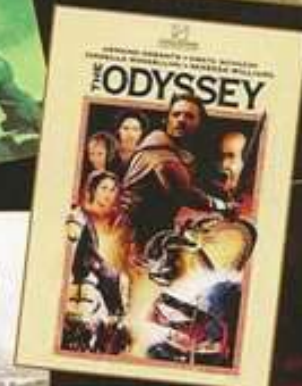
Some of our favorite horror/sci-fi/fantasy films and characters have been based on classical literature. Sinbad the Sailor first appeared in the classic collection *One Thousand and One Nights* (also known as *The Arabian Nights*) written some time in the 9th century. That collection of short stories included *The Seven Voyages of Sinbad*.

In one story, *The Third Voyage of Sinbad* (as opposed to the cinematic *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*), Sinbad sets sail and lands on an island where he and his men are captured by a cyclops, "a huge creature in the likeness of a man, black of colour, ... with eyes like coals of fire and eye-teeth like boar's tusks and a vast big gape like the mouth of a well" and the claws of a lion. When the cyclops begins eating his crew, Sinbad hatches a plan to blind the monster with the red-hot iron spits with which the cyclops has been roasting the ship's crew. After blinding him, Sinbad and the remaining crewmen escape and return to Baghdad.

The David versus Goliath aspects of such stories is always appealing. But it is the "cinematic" of Special FX legend, Ray Harryhausen that makes *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* memorable. Sinbad's blinding of the giant Cyclops and, at the film's climax, the fight between the 2-horned Cyclops and the dragon are the most memorable scenes from the film.

Classical literature is frequently the source material for popular films. But not infrequently we find that some literary masterpieces have themselves borrowed from classical literature. Sinbad's encounter with the cyclops in *One Thousand and One Nights* has obvious parallels with an even earlier literary classic, *The Odyssey*. Written by the Greek poet, Homer, *The Odyssey* is the epic tale of the Greek hero, Odysseus (Ulysses in Roman mythology), and his efforts to get home after *The Trojan War*. It is unclear when *The Odyssey* was written but Homer is believed to have lived sometime between 1200 B.C. and 850 B.C., the supposed time of the Trojan War. *The Odyssey*, then, was written at least 1700 years before *One Thousand and One Nights* and the stories of Sinbad's voyages.

In Homer's classic, Odysseus comes to the Island of the Cyclops. As he and his men set out to find supplies, they enter a large cave, the home of Polyphemus, the great Cyclops, who returns and finds Odysseus and his men. Blocking the door with a huge boulder and trapping them inside, the Cyclops begins to eat the men and promises to save Odysseus for last. On the second night of his captivity, Odysseus gives Polyphemus wine and gets him drunk. When the giant passes out, Odysseus and his men take the cyclops's huge club which was sharpened to a point and drive it into Polyphemus' eye. After blinding him, Odysseus and his men escape. Our hero taunts the blinded giant as he and his men sail away from the island.



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