

# Ithaca Poems

Poems in the style of Greek poet, Cavafy's poem 'Ithaca'; describing the way in which we should enjoy the journey, not just look forward to the destination.

## After Ithaca

When you go on your way to Ithaca,  
You should hope for a journey  
That's long and prosperous, and full of content.  
Do not be wary  
Of the darkness that haunts the night,  
Or the sea - that recoils from the land.  
They will not cause you worry  
As long as you do not dread them.  
If you hold them in your head  
And let them rule over you; controlling you,  
That's when you will fear them.  
You should hope for a journey  
That's full of moments to cherish.  
The summer sun that brings you new light  
Or the rain that washes away the dread  
Or even that sweet summer smell;  
That intoxicates you for several months.  
Keep these memories forever with you:  
For when the journey gets tough,  
And the end seems too far,  
They will keep you going.  
Not the idea of Ithaca nor where you began,  
Not the darkness nor the sea,  
But the journey you took  
And the memories you made.  
Because if you get to Ithaca  
And it is not as you hoped,  
It will not have disappointed you.  
Instead you will be content with a journey  
That was long and prosperous.

Zara W, Year 9

When you make your way to Ithaca,  
Hope that it will be lasting  
For the journey should be cherished  
And full of precious moments  
But, do not fear the Dark and unknown  
When you can fill the light with joy  
Do not worry about the Formidable  
If you can ride on the crest of waves  
And fill the way with laughs and colour  
Yet still carrying the bad in your journey  
So that they cannot harm you  
And then you can relish a happy journey  
Fill the journey with memories to be grateful  
of cherry blossom trees like clouds  
Earthly smells like fresh cut grass  
Summer days you wish to last forever  
Sounds of the sea and washing tides  
Let your eyes drink the milky sky  
Keep the destination in your mind  
But not hurrying or rushing to get there  
Make your goals to get there with no haste  
Don't follow Ithaca like a pebble in the gloom  
You may do this- but when you find Ithaca is poor  
She hasn't deceived you, so you must find  
wealth in the journey

Poppy, Year 9