

CHOICE BOARD

THE MONSTER IN THE CAVE

Retell the play in the form of a graphic novel. Be sure to include thought and speech balloons, captions, sound effects, and motion lines.

Imagine that the story is being turned into a full-length book. Design the cover of the book.

Write a new scene for the play: Scene 8, in which Poseidon, god of the sea, confronts Odysseus and his crew about what just happened on the island of the Cyclopes.

Choose any story; it could be a fairy tale, a novel, a different play, or a movie. Rewrite one scene from the story in the format of a play that includes a Greek Chorus commenting on the action.

Read the play and watch the video at Scope Online. Now imagine that you're Zeus, ruler of all the gods. In an essay or a video, tell Odysseus and Polyphemus what you think of their behavior.

**This is the contest prompt that appears at the end of the story.*

Write the lyrics to a song from the point of view of any character in the play (even a sheep!). Be sure to give your song a title. Optionally, set your song to the tune of another song (or make up your own original tune) and record it.

Imagine that the play is being turned into a movie. Make a playlist of 3 to 5 songs that would make a great soundtrack to the movie. Include an explanation of why each song should be included.

Choose one character and imagine that this character kept a journal during the events of the play. Write that character's journal entries.

Create a fictional social media account for any character from the play. Be sure to include the handle, a biography, and a series of posts for that character.

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Vocabulary

The Monster in the Cave

Go to Scope
 Online to listen to
 the words and
 definitions read
 aloud.

1. **colossal** (kuh-LAHS-uhl) *adjective*; Something that is colossal is extremely large. Blue whales are colossal animals. If you didn't check your phone for a month, you might find a colossal number of messages when you finally did.
2. **cunning** (KUHN-ing) *adjective*; Someone who is cunning gets what they want in a clever way, often by deceiving others. Loki from *The Avengers* is cunning; he is a trickster by nature.
3. **folly** (FOL-ee) *noun*; Folly means "a foolish act or idea" or "the lack of good sense or judgment." Deciding to run a marathon without training for it would be folly. Trying to sail from California to China on a small raft would be folly too. You might regret your folly in staying up late to watch a movie the night before a big test.
4. **helm** (helm) *noun*; The helm of a boat or ship is the part that is used to steer it—usually a lever or a wheel.

Helm can also be used figuratively. Someone is "at the helm" if they are in a position of command or leadership, as in "Steve Jobs was at the helm of Apple for many years" or "Shana was 22 years old when she took the helm of the family business."
5. **hoist** (hoyst) *verb*; To hoist something is to lift or raise it, especially by using ropes or machinery. A group of students might hoist the flags up the pole in front of their school each morning. A crane might hoist steel beams into place at a construction site. You might hoist yourself out of a swimming pool.
6. **hospitality** (hos-pih-TAL-ih-tee) *noun*; Hospitality is the friendly and generous treatment of guests. If you have made sure everyone at your birthday party is introduced to one another, gets enough to eat, and is having a good time, then you will have shown hospitality.

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Vocabulary Practice

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Directions: Circle the boldfaced word in each pair that best completes the sentence.

1. My brother didn't see the **folly**/**treachery** in agreeing to take care of six dogs at the same time—until they all started barking at once.
2. Joe realized he'd made a **colossal**/**cunning** mistake: He'd added a cup of salt instead of a cup of sugar to the dough.
3. We'll need at least five people to **hoist**/**vanquish** the piano onto the stage.
4. After the basketball coach hosted the end-of-season party, our team sent her a card to thank her for her **hospitality**/**treachery**.

Directions: Choose the word that is MOST similar in meaning to each word in bold.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 5. cunning
A. shy
B. sly | 7. treachery
A. disloyalty
B. honesty | 9. vanquish
A. lose
B. defeat |
| 6. hoist
A. lower
B. raise | 8. helm
A. control switch
B. steering wheel | 10. folly
A. foolishness
B. wisdom |

7. **treachery** (TRECH-uh-ree) *noun*; Treachery is an act of betrayal—behavior that deceives, harms, or is not loyal to someone who trusts you. A U.S. senator giving government secrets to another country would be an example of treachery. If Logan is running for class president and his best friend votes for someone else, Logan might be shocked by his friend's treachery.
8. **vanquish** (VANG-kwish) *verb*; To vanquish is to completely overpower or conquer. If you vanquished your opponents in a soccer game, you didn't win by just a couple of points; you won by a lot.

Directions: In the space below, list any other words from the play whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

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Close-Reading Questions

The Monster in the Cave

1. In Scene 3, why do you think Odysseus says that his ship was destroyed by Poseidon?
(inference)

2. In Scene 3, SD3 says that Polyphemus “lifts a vat of milk and guzzles it down.” Why do you think the playwright chose the word *guzzles* instead of another word, like *drinks* or *sips*? (word choice)

3. Why might the playwright have decided to have Polyphemus be gentle with his sheep?
(author’s purpose, character)

4. What do you learn about the Greek gods Poseidon and Zeus from the play? Explain.
(inference, character)

5. What is the difference between calling someone clever and calling someone cunning?
(shades of meaning)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

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1. Odysseus demands that Polyphemus obey Zeus's command to treat all guests kindly. The play doesn't say whether Zeus had any commands for guests—but do you think that Odysseus was a good guest? Would you have felt like treating him kindly?

2. At the end of the prologue, the Greek Chorus says that some called Odysseus a hero, describing him as courageous and clever, while others described him as cunning and cruel. (The caption on page 18 expresses a similar idea.) Then the Chorus asks, "How should we judge Odysseus?" How would you answer that question? Explain.



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Directions: Respond to each statement by checking “Agree” or “Disagree.” Be prepared to justify your responses.

	Agree	Disagree
1. There are two sides to every story.		
2. Sometimes lying is justified.		
3. Whoever is the biggest is the most powerful.		
4. There are more ways to categorize people than just as villains or heroes.		
5. Cleverness and wisdom are the same thing.		

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Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about the character of
Odysseus

1. As Odysseus's crew is sailing home from war in Scene 1, Thales says, "Odysseus, for you the men will row until they drop, but they are weak from hunger." What does this line reveal about Odysseus?

2. In Scene 2, the crew seems nervous about exploring the island. What does Odysseus's response to the crew reveal about what kind of person he is?

3. Do you think exploring the island is folly, as Eos says?

4. As the illustration caption on page 18 asks, what is the difference between calling someone clever and calling someone cunning?

5. List any actions in Scenes 3-6 that you think make Odysseus clever and/or cunning.

6. Consider these lines from Scene 7 that Odysseus says as he and his crew sail away from the island:

"Cyclops! Oh, Cyclops!"

"Cyclops, if anyone asks who defeated you, you can tell them it was the valiant warrior of Ithaca, the hero of the Trojan War: Odysseus!"

Based on these lines, what character trait(s) would you use to describe Odysseus? Explain.

7. Is it wise for Odysseus to travel by sea after what happened on the island? Explain.



The Monster in the Cave

Pronunciation Guide

Bendus [BEN-duhs]

Cyclops [SAHY-klops]

Cylcopes [sahy-KLOH-peeZ]

Eos [EE-os]

Linus [LAHY-nuhs]

Odysseus [oh-DIH-see-uhs]

Polyphemus [pol-uh-FEE-muhs]

Poseidon [poh-SAHYD-n]

Thales [THAHY-leeZ]

Telemon [TELL-uh-muhn]

Zeus [ZOOS]

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to these names
pronounced
aloud.

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Video Discussion Questions

“Polyphemus: My Side of the Story”

1. Compare the way both Polyphemus and Odysseus are portrayed in the video with the way they are portrayed in the play.

2. In the video, Polyphemus tells you the story of his encounter with Odysseus from his (Polyphemus’s) point of view. How do you think a video in which Odysseus told you the story from *his* point of view would be different?

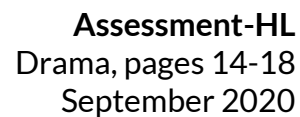
3. Did watching the video cause you to change your view of any of the characters or events in the play?

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The Monster in the Cave Quiz

Directions: Read *The Monster in the Cave*. Then answer the questions below.

-
1. **What is the purpose of the prologue?**
Choose **TWO** answers.
 - A. to explain Odysseus's role in the Trojan War
 - B. to set the time and place of the story
 - C. to raise questions about Odysseus's character
 - D. to defend Polyphemus's point of view
 2. **Which best describes the role of the Greek Chorus?**
 - A. to describe the actors' actions, the sets, and the stage lighting
 - B. to give advice to the characters
 - C. to give the audience additional information about the story and comment on the characters' actions
 - D. to represent the Greek gods
 3. **In Scene 1, C2 says, "But now the war is won. With victory at their backs, they are sailing home to Ithaca at last." This line reveals that Odysseus and his men _____.**
 - A. lost the Trojan War
 - B. won the Trojan War
 - C. will soon have victory
 - D. miss their families
 4. **Which line suggests that Odysseus's men are loyal to him?**
 - A. *Thales*: Odysseus, for you the men will row until they drop, but they are weak from hunger.
 - B. *Thales*: If we don't find food and water soon . . . I fear we will be lost forever.
 - C. *Eos*: This sounds like folly.
 - D. *Odysseus*: Tonight, we will feast like gods.
 5. **In Scene 3, Odysseus says that if Polyphemus treats the men unkindly, Polyphemus will be the object of Zeus's wrath. Polyphemus replies, "If I spare your life, it is not because I fear the wrath of Zeus." Based on context clues, what is wrath?**
 - A. mild disapproval
 - B. anger that makes you want to punish someone
 - C. a reward for good behavior
 - D. a ring-shaped arrangement of leaves, flowers, or branches
 6. **In Scene 5, why does Odysseus give Polyphemus wine?**
 - A. He believes that if he shows kindness to Polyphemus, Polyphemus will let Odysseus and his men go free.
 - B. He is obeying Zeus's command to be friendly to strangers.
 - C. He is apologizing for eating Polyphemus's food.
 - D. He wants to make Polyphemus fall asleep so the men can blind him with the log.



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Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers in the space provided or use your own paper or document.

7. Use details from the play to support the following claim: Odysseus is cunning.
8. At the end of the play, why is Poseidon furious? Why is this bad news for Odysseus and his crew? Use text evidence to support your answer.

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The Monster in the Cave Quiz

Directions: Read *The Monster in the Cave*. Then answer the questions below.

1. **What is the purpose of the prologue?**
Choose TWO answers.
 - A. to explain the causes of the Trojan War
 - B. to set the time and place of the story
 - C. to raise questions about Odysseus's character
 - D. to explain what a Cyclops is

2. **The purpose of the Greek Chorus is to give the audience additional information about the story and to _____.**
 - A. describe the stage lighting
 - B. give advice to the characters
 - C. comment on the characters' actions
 - D. play Greek gods

3. **In Scene 1, C2 says, "But now the war is won. With victory at their backs, they are sailing home to Ithaca at last." The phrase "with victory at their backs" tells you that Odysseus and his men _____.**
 - A. lost the Trojan War
 - B. won the Trojan War
 - C. will soon have victory
 - D. miss their families

4. **Which line suggests that Odysseus's men are loyal to him?**
 - A. *Thales*: Odysseus, for you the men will row until they drop, but they are weak from hunger.
 - B. *Thales*: If we don't find food and water soon . . . I fear we will be lost forever.
 - C. *Eos*: This sounds like folly.
 - D. *Odysseus*: Tonight, we will feast like gods.

5. **In Scene 3, Odysseus says that if Polyphemus treats the men unkindly, Polyphemus will be the object of Zeus's wrath. Polyphemus says that he does not fear the wrath of Zeus. Based on context clues, what is wrath?**
 - A. forgiveness
 - B. anger that makes you want to punish someone
 - C. a reward for good behavior
 - D. a ring of leaves, flowers, or branches

6. **In Scene 5, why does Odysseus give Polyphemus wine?**
 - A. He thinks Polyphemus will be so thankful that he'll set Odysseus and his men free.
 - B. He is obeying Zeus's command to be friendly to strangers.
 - C. He wants to show that he's sorry for eating Polyphemus's food.
 - D. He wants to make Polyphemus fall asleep so the men can blind him with the log.

Cyclops Contest

Read the play and watch the video at Scope Online. Now imagine that you're Zeus, ruler of all the gods. In an essay or a video, tell Odysseus and Polyphemus what you think of their behavior. Send your work to Cyclops Contest. Three winners will get *The Trials of Apollo: The Tower of Nero* by Rick Riordan.

Entries will be judged on:

- ✓ a clearly stated central idea
- ✓ good organization and transitions
- ✓ use of supporting text evidence
- ✓ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Student name: _____

Home phone number: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's name: _____ Teacher's email: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature:

X _____

Include this form with the entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY October 20, 2020.

*Entries must be submitted by a legal resident of the U.S. age 18 and older, who is the teacher, parent, or guardian of the student.
Please submit .docs and PDFs. Google docs cannot be accepted.