

Odysseus was a famous Greek hero. He lived in Greece but for many years he was away from his wife and his son. He was fighting in a long war. At last the war ended and Odysseus began his voyage home. On the way he met many strange creatures.

# The voyage of Odysseus

## Scene 1

Setting: on Odysseus' ship near rocky cliffs

Characters: Odysseus; the sea captain; sailors; a monster with six heads

**Odysseus:** Listen, men. There are two horrifying sea monsters nearby. The first one has twelve legs, six necks and six heads, with three sets of teeth in each one!

**Captain:** That's awful! We have never seen such a terrifying creature!

**Odysseus:** If a ship sails too near, the monster will ...

**Sailors:** Help! The ship is rocking!

**Odysseus:** Row, row as fast as you can! The monster lives in the cave under those cliffs. He may be sleeping now but I will fight him if I have to.

**Sailors:** Row! Row!

**Captain:** We have just passed the cave. We are safe!

**Sailor 1:** No! Look at the water! We haven't escaped yet.

**Sailor 2:** The ship is spinning round and round. What is happening?

**Odysseus:** It is the other monster! It is a giant whirlpool. It will pull us under the sea!

**Sailors:** We must row!

**Monster:** Grrr!

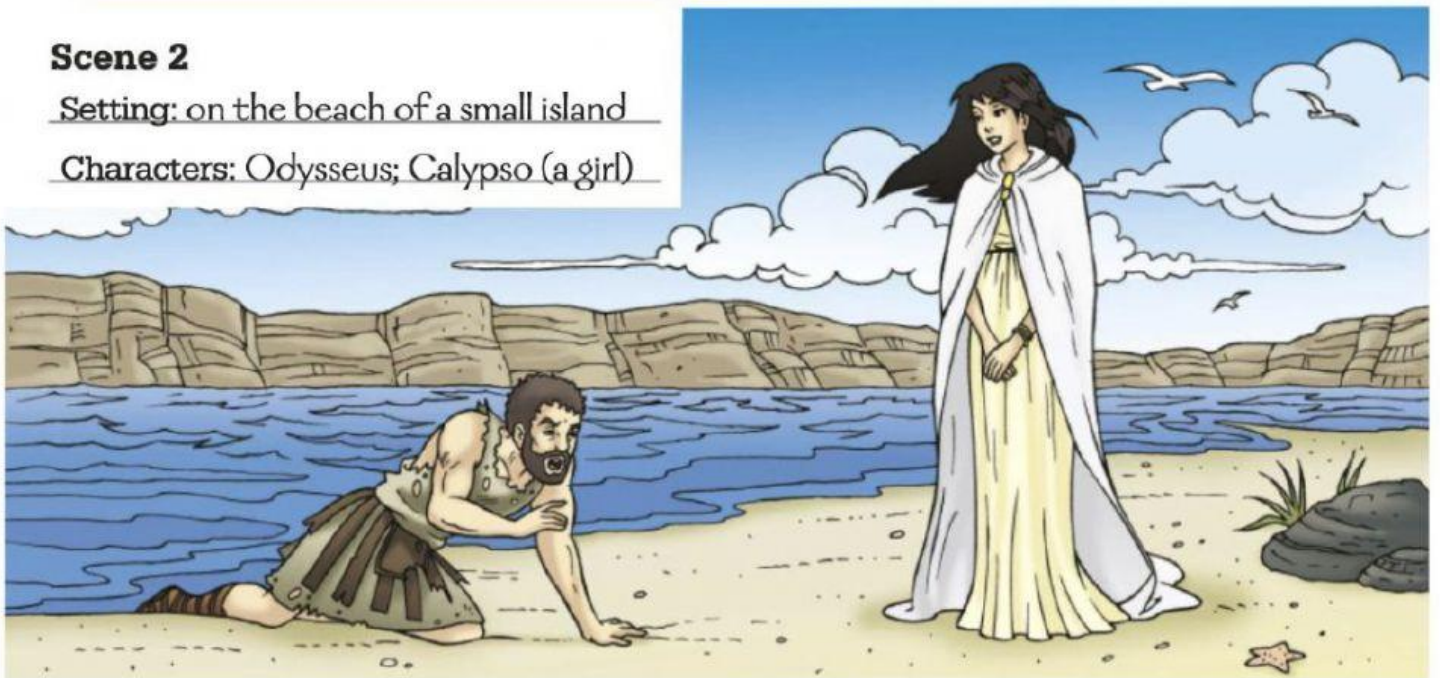


Sailor 1: What is that?  
Captain: It's a giant dog!  
Odysseus: No, it is the monster with six heads!  
Sailor 2: Look, it is rising out of the water!  
Monster: Grrr!  
Sailor 1: Help! It is attacking us.  
Captain: It is grabbing the sailors. It is eating them! Row! Row!  
Odysseus: Now a storm is coming! The waves are getting higher and higher.  
Captain: The wind is tearing the sail.  
Sailor 2: The mast has broken!  
Captain: The ship is turning over! Help! Help!

## Scene 2

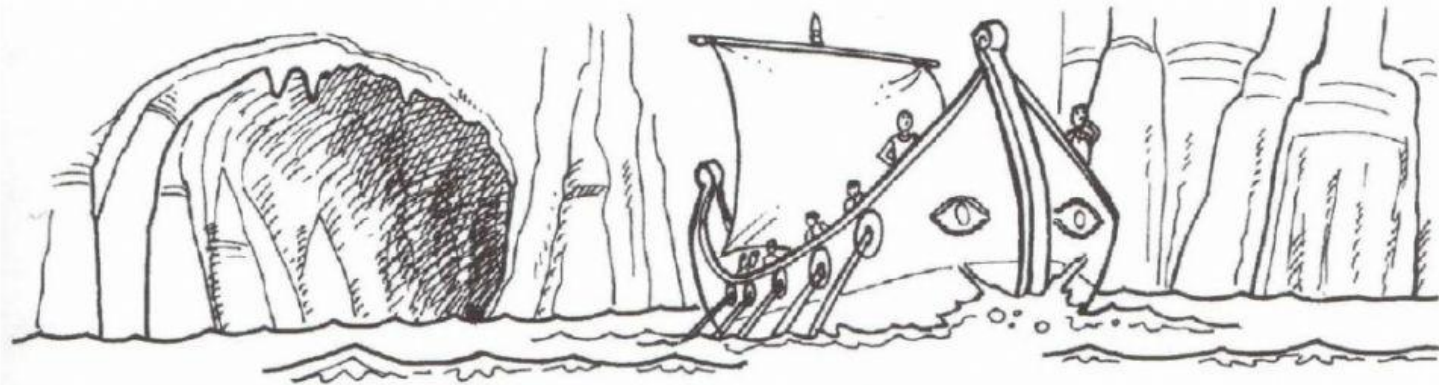
Setting: on the beach of a small island

Characters: Odysseus; Calypso (a girl)



Odysseus: I was in the sea for ten days. Now I have reached an island. But is this a safe place? I don't know.  
Calypso: Hello. My name is Calypso. What has happened to you?  
Odysseus: I have just swum to this island. My name is Odysseus. I am travelling to my home.  
Calypso: Where is your ship?  
Odysseus: There was a terrible storm. My ship disappeared under the water and all the sailors drowned.  
Calypso: That is dreadful. Come to my home. My parents will look after you.  
Odysseus: Thank you. You are very kind. I am exhausted, it's true.

*Rewritten from The adventures of Odysseus, a Greek legend adapted by Gill Munton (Macmillan English Explorers, level 4)*



**Read The Voyage of Odysseus again.**  
**Match the sentence beginnings and endings.**

- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Odysseus was          | pulled down by the whirlpool. |
| 2 Odysseus' boat passed | Calypso.                      |
| 3 The first monster had | the ship's sail.              |
| 4 The other monster was | a famous Greek hero.          |
| 5 The wind tore         | an island.                    |
| 6 The ship's mast broke | a giant whirlpool.            |
| 7 The sailors were      | in the storm.                 |
| 8 The ship was          | eaten by the monster.         |
| 9 Odysseus swam to      | the monster's cave.           |
| 10 The girl's name was  | six heads.                    |

**Read these words from the play. Match them with the words below.**

horrifying    dreadful    exhausted    attack    voyage    creature

- |           |       |              |       |
|-----------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 1 tired   | _____ | 4 animal     | _____ |
| 2 journey | _____ | 5 terrifying | _____ |
| 3 fight   | _____ | 6 awful      | _____ |

**Read the words and the definitions. Write the word next to the correct definition.**

mast   nearby   sail   escape   horrifying

- |                                                                     |  |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------|
| 1 very frightening                                                  |  | (a)   |
| 2 to get away from                                                  |  | (v)   |
| 3 not far from                                                      |  | (adv) |
| 4 the tall piece of wood in the middle of a sailing boat            |  | (n)   |
| 5 the big piece of cloth that hangs from the mast of a sailing boat |  | (n)   |

wife   rock   row   whirlpool   tear   hero

- |                                                                         |  |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----|
| 1 to pull into pieces                                                   |  | (v) |
| 2 a dangerous place in a river or sea where water spins round and round |  | (n) |
| 3 to move from side to side                                             |  | (v) |
| 4 a married woman                                                       |  | (n) |
| 5 a very brave man                                                      |  | (n) |
| 6 to move a boat by pulling on oars (long pieces of wood)               |  | (v) |