



from *The* **CYCLOPS**

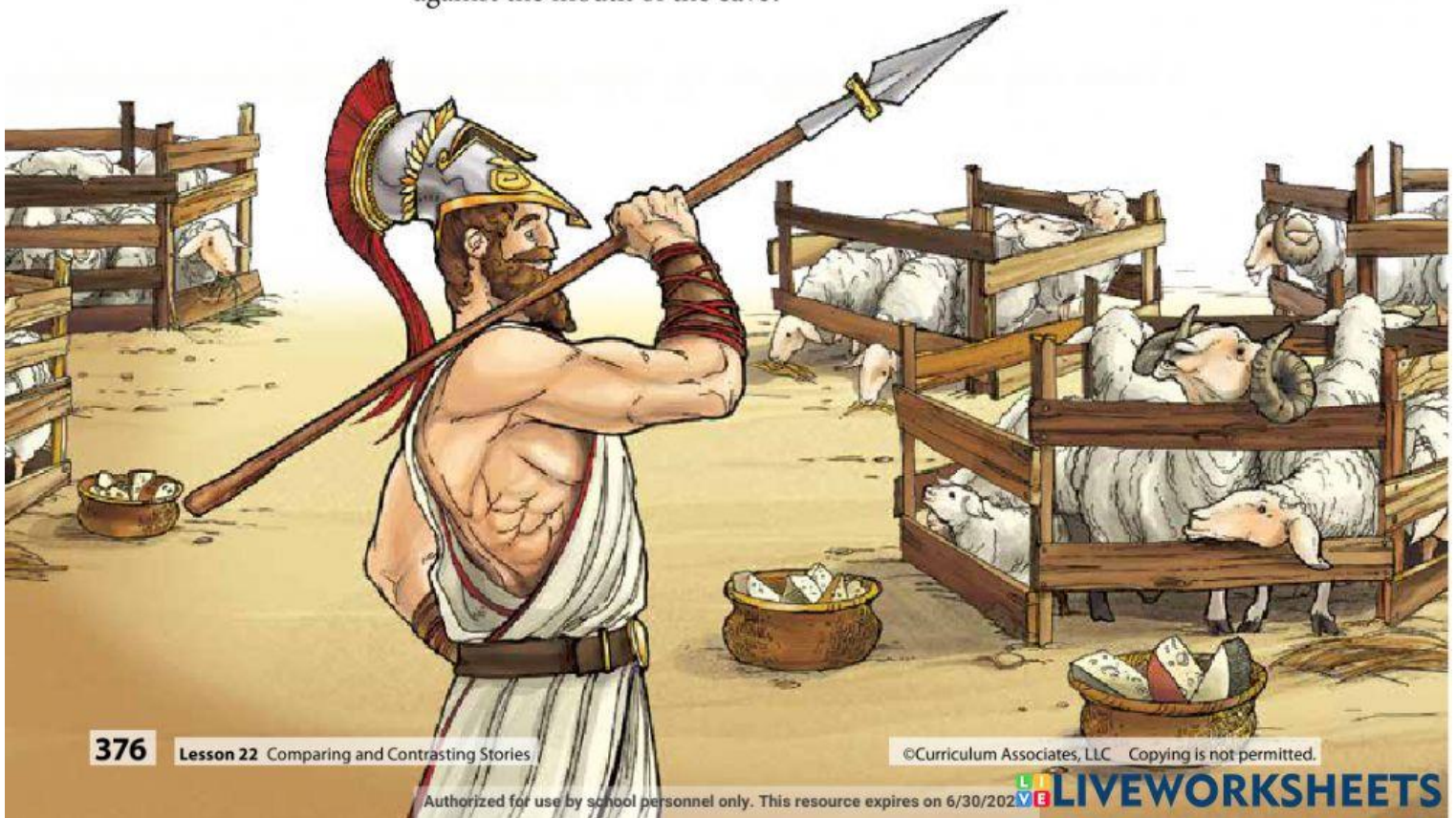
retold from Homer's The Odyssey by Alfred J. Church

WORDS TO KNOW

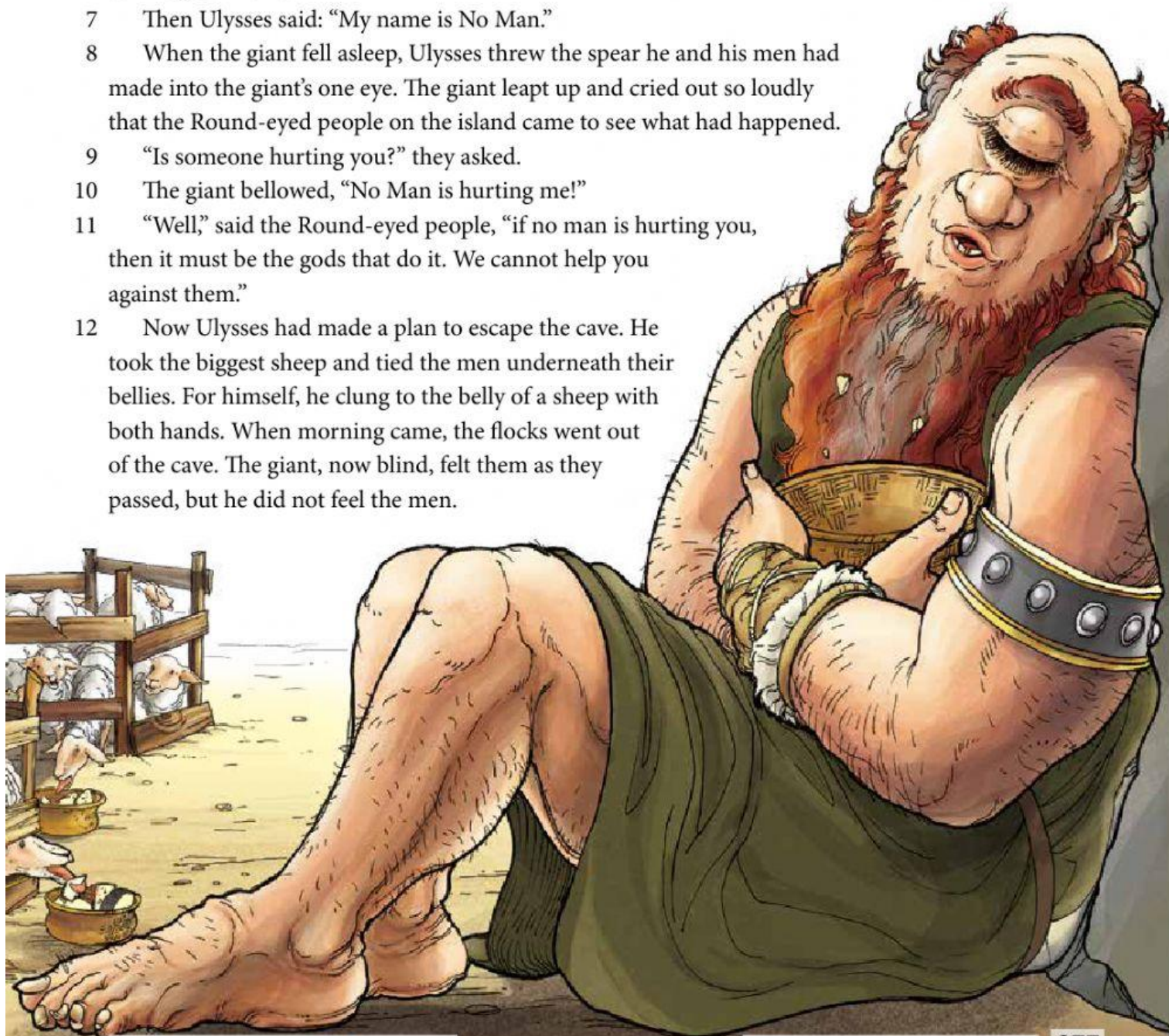
As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- pens
- shepherd

- 1 One of Ulysses's many adventures was in the country of the Cyclops or Round-eyed People. While exploring the country, he and his men came to a cave. Inside there were pens for sheep and baskets full of cheeses. Ulysses's men said to him: "Let us go away before the master comes back." But Ulysses would not listen to them. He wanted to see what kind of man this shepherd might be.
- 2 In the evening the Cyclops came home. He was a great giant, with one big eye in the middle of his forehead. He drove his flocks inside and then closed up the mouth of the cave with a rock so big that twenty wagons could not carry it.
- 3 When the giant saw the men, he grabbed up two of them and swallowed them. Then he lay down among his sheep and slept.
- 4 Ulysses thought: "Shall I slay this monster as he sleeps? But no; if I do this, we will be trapped. Who shall be able to roll away the great rock that is against the mouth of the cave?"



- 5 The giant left early the next morning, but kept the sheep and the men in the cave by rolling the rock back in place. All day, Ulysses and his men worked on a plan to escape the cave. In the evening, the giant came back. He grabbed two more men and swallowed them. When he had finished, Ulysses came to him with a special drink in his hand and said, "Drink, Cyclops, now that you have eaten."
- 6 The Cyclops took the glass and drank. "Give me more," he said, "and tell me your name."
- 7 Then Ulysses said: "My name is No Man."
- 8 When the giant fell asleep, Ulysses threw the spear he and his men had made into the giant's one eye. The giant leapt up and cried out so loudly that the Round-eyed people on the island came to see what had happened.
- 9 "Is someone hurting you?" they asked.
- 10 The giant bellowed, "No Man is hurting me!"
- 11 "Well," said the Round-eyed people, "if no man is hurting you, then it must be the gods that do it. We cannot help you against them."
- 12 Now Ulysses had made a plan to escape the cave. He took the biggest sheep and tied the men underneath their bellies. For himself, he clung to the belly of a sheep with both hands. When morning came, the flocks went out of the cave. The giant, now blind, felt them as they passed, but he did not feel the men.



- 3** Below, underline **one** sentence in **each** excerpt that helps show the difference in how Ulysses responds to a threat to his crew.

While exploring the country, he and his men came to a cave. Inside there were pens for sheep and baskets full of cheeses. Ulysses's men said to him: "Let us go away before the master comes back." But Ulysses would not listen to them. ("The Cyclops")

When Ulysses had said, "May I not take shield and spear and fight with this monster?" Circe had answered, "You are wonderfully bold. You would fight with the gods themselves." ("The Dangerous Way")

- 4** Read the following sentence from "The Dangerous Way."

Then, suddenly, there came down upon the ship Scylla's dreadful heads.

If the word *dread* means "to think about with great fear," what does the word *dreadful* mean in this context?

- A** frightened
- B** ugly
- C** terrifying
- D** dangerous



Write You have read the stories "The Cyclops" and "The Dangerous Way" about Ulysses. Think about how they are the same and how they are different.

- 5 Plan Your Response** For each story that you read, list whom Ulysses meets, what problem he faces, and how he solves the problem.

- 6 Write an Extended Response** Describe what is the same and different in "The Cyclops" and "The Dangerous Way." Use details about the characters, setting, and plot from each story in your answer.
