

from *The*

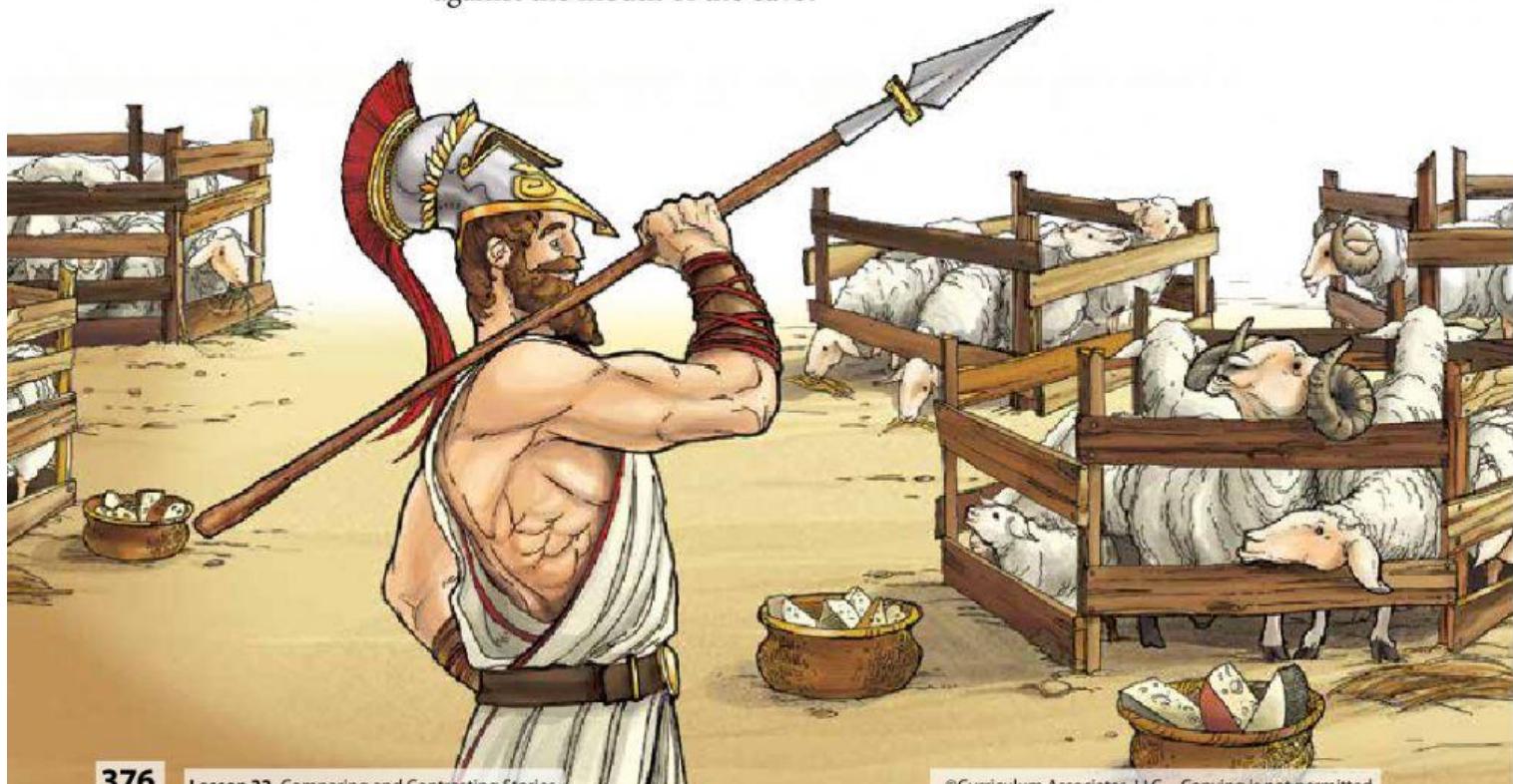
# CYCLOPS

*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.

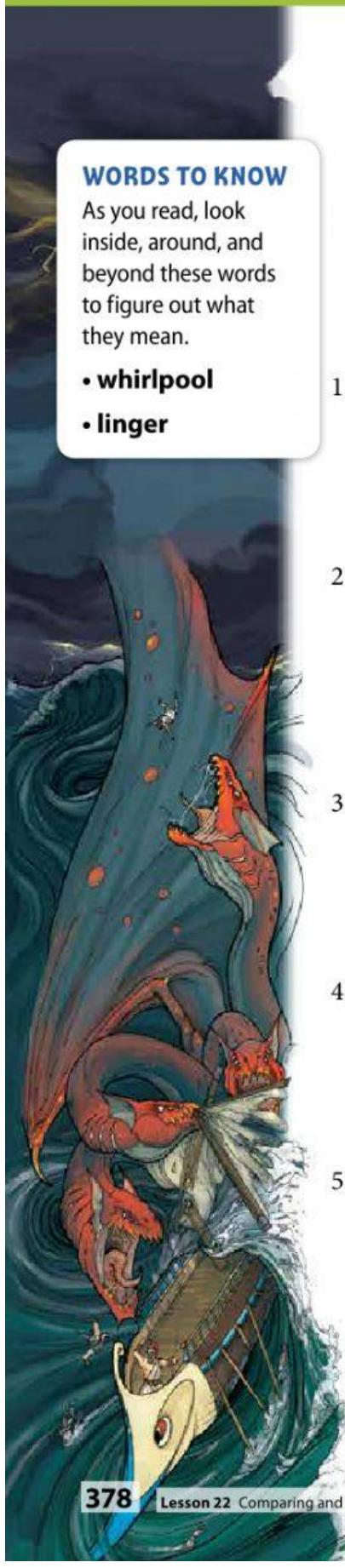
10 The giant bellowed, "No Man is hurting me!"

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.



from



# THE DANGEROUS WAY

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.

- **whirlpool**
- **linger**

- 1 There was a narrow place between the mainland and an island. On the one side there was a cave, in which there lived a terrible monster named Scylla. On the other side, there was a dreadful whirlpool called Charybdis. If a ship ever got into that, it was sucked down to the bottom of the sea and never came up again.
- 2 Circe had told Ulysses what he should do. "It will be better," she had said, "to go near Scylla than to go near Charybdis. Scylla will pounce down upon your ship when it comes within her reach. She will take six men, one for each of the six heads that she has. But if you go too near to Charybdis, your whole ship will be swallowed up. It is better to lose six men than have all of them drown."
- 3 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. But be sure that you cannot fight with Scylla. She is too strong for any man. And while you linger she will take six more men. No. Fly from the place as fast as you can."
- 4 So now he told the steersman to steer the ship as near as he could to the side of the strait near Scylla's cave. Nevertheless, they went very close to the whirlpool. It was a wonderful sight. At one time, you could see to the very bottom of the sea. And at another time, the water seemed to boil up almost to the top of the cliffs.
- 5 Now, Ulysses had said nothing to his men about the monster on the other side. He was afraid that if they knew about her they would not go on with their voyage. So they all stood and watched the whirlpool. Then, suddenly, there came down upon the ship Scylla's dreadful heads. She caught up six of the crew, the bravest and strongest of them all. Ulysses heard them cry to him to help them, but he could do nothing. And this, he said afterwards, was the very saddest thing that happened to him in all his troubles.

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.

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## Learning Target

**In this lesson you've compared and contrasted stories that have the same or similar characters. What can this help you understand about the characters and stories?**