

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!

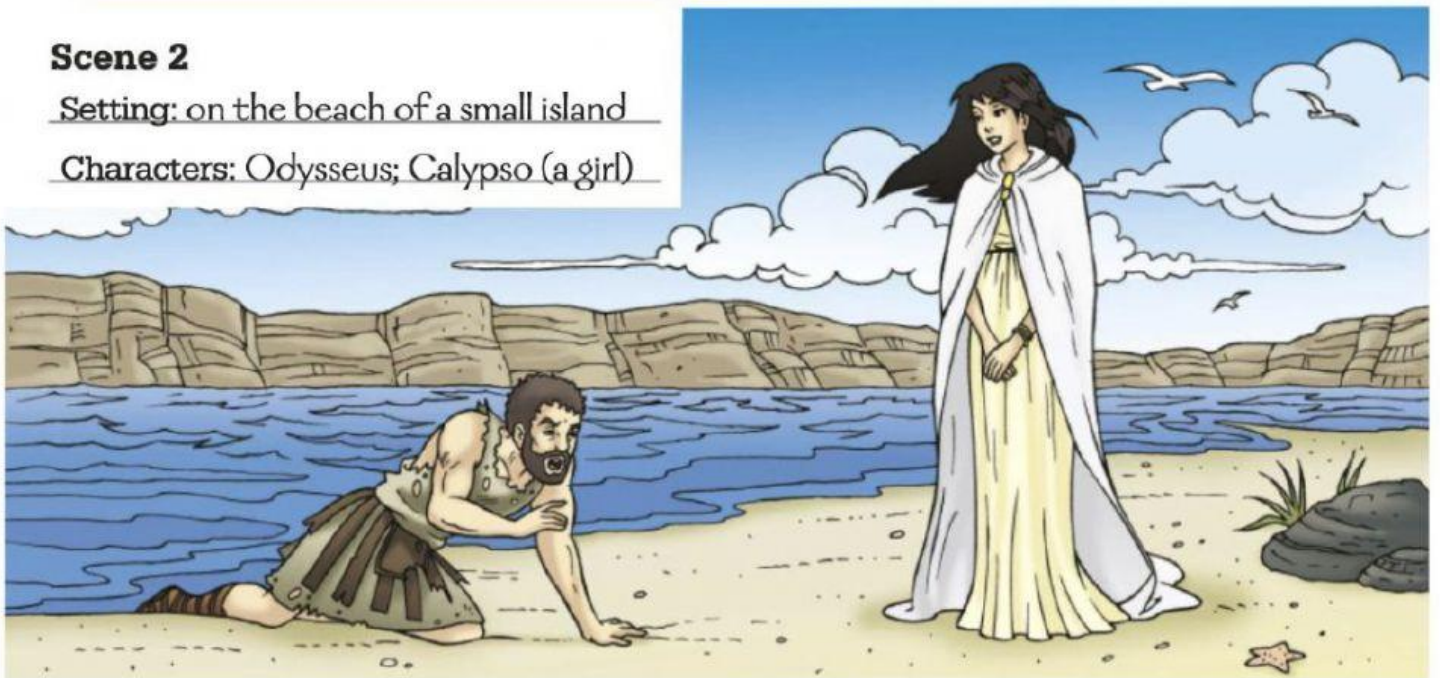


Sailor 1: What is that?
Captain: It's a giant dog!
Odysseus: No, it is the monster with six heads!
Sailor 2: Look, it is rising out of the water!
Monster: Grrr!
Sailor 1: Help! It is attacking us.
Captain: It is grabbing the sailors. It is eating them! Row! Row!
Odysseus: Now a storm is coming! The waves 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

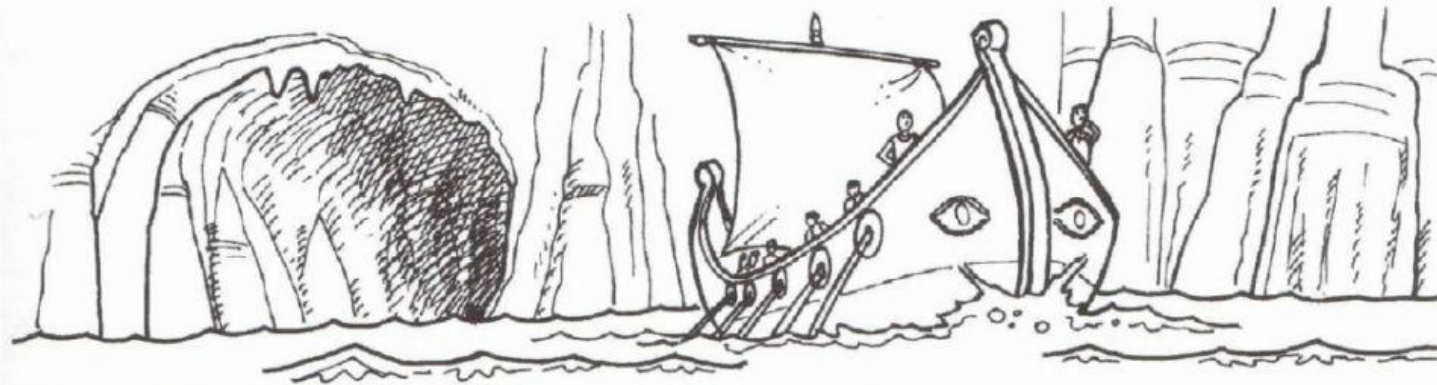
Setting: on the beach of a small island

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) |