

Book 9 Excerpts

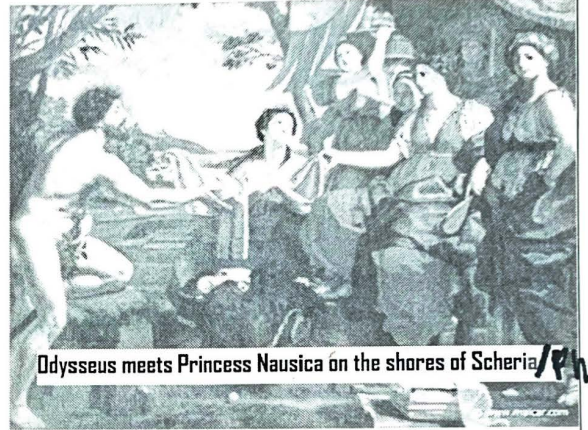
These famous excerpt from Book 9, in which Odysseus interacts with the Cicones, the Lotus Eaters, the Cyclops Polyphemus, features Odysseus' quick wit and clever verbal sparring.

Directions: As you read the passage, make note of **specific speakers' dialogue**, **examples of literary elements and figurative language**, **of important events in the books**, **evidence of the gods intervening/will of the gods**, and the words and details that help you understand Odysseus' character.

Objectives:

- Students will annotate the text to pay closer attention as they read and gain a closer perspective of the text.
- Students will analyze characters in Book 9 and their responses to various kinds of conflict.
- Students will monitor their own learning and begin analyzing the text for patterns, contrasts, epic-specific literary elements, and symbols
- Students will provide textual evidence that identify the protagonist's character traits and provide insight into what his actions and reactions reveal about his character.

Summary: Nearly ten years have passed since the end of the war against Troy, but one of the greatest Greek generals has not yet returned home. Odysseus has encountered a series of disasters on his voyage and is now the prisoner of a nymph named Calypso. He has angered Poseidon, who has prevented him from returning to his wife, Penelope, and his son, Telemachus, on the island of Ithaca. But Poseidon is visiting Africa, and the other gods agree to act behind his back to assist Odysseus. Odysseus has been imprisoned by Calypso for seven years, and he is miserable. She loves her handsome captive and will not let him go, but she is forced to change her mind when she receives a strongly worded order from Hermes sent from Mount Olympus. Calypso helps Odysseus make a raft, and he departs, but he does not have smooth sailing. Poseidon learns that his old enemy is attempting to go home and shipwrecks him with a fierce storm.



Odysseus meets Princess Nausicaa on the shores of Scheria / Phaedra

Zeus's daughter Athena steps in to assist Odysseus and helps him to get ashore on the island of Phaeacia. Princess Nausicaa discovers him, naked and near death, and takes him home to the palace of her father, King Alcinous. The Phaeacians treat Odysseus as a noble guest and urge him to reveal his identity. He eventually agrees and begins the tale of his travels since leaving the war.

xenia

✓ TIME NC 6 Close Reading/Annotations/ and Related Questions The Cicones

1. Well then, what shall I go through first.
2. what shall I save for last?
3. What pains—the gods have given me my share.
4. Now let me begin by telling you my name ...
5. so you may know it well and I in times to come,
6. if I can escape the fatal day, will be your host,
7. your sworn friend, though my home is far from here.
8. I am Odysseus, **son of Laertes**, known to the world
9. for every kind of **craft**—my **fame** has reached the skies.
10. Sunny Ithaca is my home. Atop her stands our seamark,
11. Mount Neriton's leafy ridges shimmering in the wind.
12. Around her a ring of islands circle side-by-side,
13. Dulichion, Same, wooded Zacynthus too, but mine
14. lies low and away, the farthest out to sea,
15. rearing into the western dusk
16. while the others face the east and breaking day.
17. Mine is a rugged land but good for raising sons—
18. and I myself, I know no sweeter sight on earth
19. than a man's own native country.
20. True enough, Calypso **the lustrous goddess** tried to hold me back,
21. **deep in her arching caverns**, **craving me for a husband**.
22. So did Circe, **holding me just as warmly in her halls**.
23. **the bewitching queen of Aeaea** **keen to have me too**.
24. **But they never won the heart inside me, never.**

epithets

thankful
concerned
proud

Odysseus's description of Ithaca

I am Odysseus. If I ever make it home, I will host you at my palace, sworn friendships.

Highlight Odysseus's description of Ithaca.

homesick

How does Odysseus feel about his home? Highlight the evidence that supports your answer.

lines 25-28
O thinks that nothing is sweeter than being home with his family no matter where he can travel.

Calypso and Circe both wanted me but I remained faithful—in my heart.

Introduction

loyal

So nothing is as sweet as a man's own country, his own parents, even though he's settled down in some luxurious house, off in a foreign land and far from those who bore him.

No more. Come, let me tell you about the voyage fraught with hardship Zeus inflicted on me, homeward bound from Troy ...

ROAD OF TRIALS Six Adventure...The Cicones

The wind drove me out of Ilium on to Ismarus, the Cicones' stronghold. There I sacked the city, killed the men, but as for the wives and plunder, that rich haul we dragged away from the place—we shared it round. So no one, not on my account, would go deprived of his fair share of spoils.

riches, goods

Then I urged them to cut and run, set sail, but would they listen? Not those mutinous fools:

disobedient, treacherous

there was too much wine to swill, too many sheep to slaughter down along the beach, and shambling longhorn cattle. And all the while the Cicones sought out other Cicones, called for help from their neighbors living inland:

reinforcements

a larger force, and stronger soldiers too, skilled hands at fighting men from chariots, skilled, when a crisis broke, to fight on foot.

new attack

Out of the morning mist they came against us—packed as the leaves and spears that flower forth in spring—and Zeus presented us with disaster, me and my comrades—doomed to suffer blow on mortal blow. Lining up, both armies battled it out against our swift ships, both raked each other with hurtling bronze lances.

smile intervention

throwing spears

Long as morning rose and the blessed day grew stronger we stood and fought them off, massed as they were, but then, when the sun wheeled past the hour for unyoking oxen, the Cicones broke our lines and beat us down at last. Out of each ship, six men-at-arms were killed; the rest of us rowed away from certain doom.

(17 ships)

honor fallen soldiers

From there we sailed on, glad to escape our death yet sick at heart for the dear companions we had lost. But I would not let our rolling ships set sail until the crews had raised the triple cry, saluting each poor comrade cut down by the fierce Cicones on that plain.

strong winds

god intervention

Now Zeus who masses the stormclouds hit the fleet with the North Wind—a howling, demonic gale, shrouding over in thunderheads the earth and sea at once—and night swept down from the sky and the ships went plunging headlong on our sails slashed to rags by the hurricane's blast!

We struck them—cringing at death we rowed our ships to the nearest shoreline, pulled with all our power.

*There, for two nights, two days, we lay by, no letup, eating our hearts out, bent with pain and bone-tired. When Dawn with her lovely locks brought on the third day, then stepping the masts and hoisting white sails high, we lounged at the oarlocks, letting wind and helmsmen keep us true on course

personification

he wants to be home more than anything. Ithaca = #goals

What do Odysseus and his men do first after leaving Troy? Why? up to Ismarus, attack the Cicones, sacked their cities, looted it, split the spoils fairly—

Odysseus wants them to leave. They get drunk the Cicones regroup and attack the next morning.

Character Traits displayed in this episode

Odysseus	His men
warrior	attack-mode
attack-mode	celebratory
fair with the spoils	mutinous
ready to leave	drunk
urges men to leave - resilient/loyal	

Are Odysseus's actions in the Cicones heroic? Why or why not? -he split the spoils equally -he urged them to leave

-he stood with them through the attack

Odysseus left Troy with 12 ships. How many men were killed in this episode?

heavy losses 78 men

might evidence of the passage of time in the story.

mourning

NC 7 Connecting Characterization to Theme/Considering Different Points of View:
The Cicones

COPY | QUOTE | HIGHLIGHT
 OTHER EVIDENCE

Episode Summary	Odysseus's Character Traits	Textual Evidence Commentary
Summarize each major episode in column one.	Choose character traits that describe Odysseus.	Choose textual evidence and analyze how Odysseus reacts to other characters and conflicts. What do his reactions reveal about him?
<p>summary</p> <p>① His Introduction O tells King Alcinous who he is and begins his story of where he's been.</p> <p>② The Cicones</p>	<p>(List notes)</p> <p>① homesick, thankful, prideful, disloyal</p> <p>② (list from book)</p>	<p>① "</p> <p>(9.8-9). ↑ BOOK LINE#s</p> <p>② "</p>

Consider the following questions as you prepare for a class discussion. Briefly note your thoughts and ideas. Be ready to answer with textual evidence.

- How did the epic address the Greeks' belief of gods and goddesses? In what ways did the gods intervene?
- Consider the aspects of the hero's journey? Which part would you categorize the events of Book 9 as?
- How would you characterize Odysseus throughout book nine?
- Do you believe Odysseus's actions throughout Book 9 are indicative of his ultimate goal of returning home?

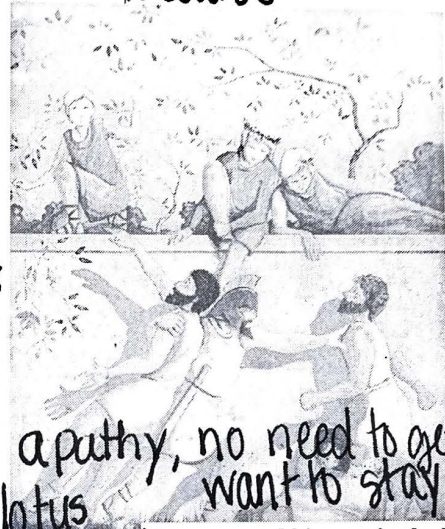
NC 8 Close Reading/Annotations/ and Related Questions: The Lotus Eaters

As you read the passage, make note of specific speakers' dialogue, examples of literary elements and figurative language, of important events in the books, evidence of the gods intervening/will of the gods, and the words and details that help you understand Odysseus' character.

77. And now, at long last,
 78. I might have reached my native land unscathed,
 79. but just as I doubled Malea's cape, a tide-rip
 80. and the North Wind drove me way off course,
 81. careering past Cythera. Nine whole days
 82. I was borne along by rough, deadly winds
 83. on the fish-infested sea. Then on the tenth
 84. our squadron reached the land of the Lotus-eaters,
 85. people who eat the lotus, mellow fruit and flower.
 86. We disembarked on the coast, drew water there
 87. and crewmen snatched a meal by the swift ships.
 88. Once we'd had our fill of food and drink I sent
 89. a detail ahead, two picked men and a third, a runner,
 90. to scout out who might live there—men like us perhaps,
 91. who live on bread? So off they went and soon enough
 92. they mingled among the natives, Lotus-eaters, Lotus-eaters
 93. who had no notion of killing my companions, not at all,
 94. they simply gave them the lotus to taste instead ...
 95. Any crewmen who ate the lotus, the honey-sweet fruit,
 96. lost all desire to send a message back, much less return,
 97. their only wish to linger there with the Lotus-eaters,
 98. grazing on lotus, all memory of the journey home
 99. dissolved forever. But I brought them back, back
 100. to the hollow ships, and streaming tears—I forced them,
 101. hauled them under the rowing benches, lashed them fast
 102. and shouted out commands to my other, steady comrades:
 103. 'Quick, no time to lose, embark in the racing ships!'—
 104. so none could eat the lotus, forget the voyage home.
 105. They swung aboard at once, they sat to the oars in ranks
 106. and in rhythm churned the water white with stroke on stroke.

I might have gotten home
 windstorms driving them off course

How long did Odysseus and his men stay on the "nearest shoreline" after their attack on the Cicones?



Odysseus and his men in the Land of the Lotus Eaters

NON-VIOLENT

3 men to scout

lotus flower effect

apathy, no need to get home, want to stay there

Odysseus:

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Odysseus	Motivation for his actions
leader, loyal, assertive, determined, selfless	- loyalty to men - no more losses - desire to get home
What traits does Odysseus reveal here that set him apart from his men? (underlined passage)	
powerful	

Connecting Characterization to Theme

Summarize each major episode in column one.	Choose character traits that describe Odysseus.	Choose textual evidence and analyze how Odysseus reacts to other characters and conflicts. What do his reactions reveal about him?
3 summary 3 The Lotus Eaters	3 list (see notes)	3 copy I quote (9.105)

book → line #

Use Character Traits

important events god intervention, O's character
speaker's dialogue, epithets/figurative language

NC 9 Close Reading/Annotations/ and Related Questions: The Cyclops (the island)

Summary: Just offshore for the land of the Cyclopes is a deserted island with a fine natural harbor. Odysseus and his men spend two comfortable days there. On the second day, overcome by curiosity, Odysseus sails to the mainland with one ship and crew (of the dozen that he left Troy with). He wants to see just what sort of creatures the Cyclopes are.

THE ISLAND

107. From there we sailed on, our spirits now at a low ebb.
108. and reached the land of the high and mighty Cyclopes;
109. lawless brutes, who trust so to the everlasting gods
110. they never plant with their own hands or plow the soil.
111. Unsown, unplowed, the earth teems with all they need,
112. wheat, barley and vines, swelled by the rains of Zeus
113. to yield a big full-bodied wine from clustered grapes.
114. They have no meeting place for council, no laws either,
115. no, up on the mountain peaks they live in arching caverns—
116. each a law to himself, ruling his wives and children,
117. not a care in the world for any neighbor.

fallen spirit of the men

#3 Land of the Cyclops

Highlight the description of the Land of the Cyclops.

no farming, no harvest
they live off the land as
the earth just provides
for them.

NO LAWS/NO CIVIL SOCIETY
EVERY man for himself

Why is Odysseus making this expedition to the island of the Cyclops?

he is curious. he wants
to see what's on the
island * freedom to pursue adventure

Are Odysseus's intentions honorable?
Highlight the evidence that supports your answer.

* (is curiosity an honorable intention?)
* What other intentions did he have?

Use one word to describe Odysseus's observations about the Cyclops:

extremely large

Highlight evidence that supports your choice.

"like a shaggy peak"

O's description of the Cyclops

he took 12 of his finest fighters w/ him.
& a "skin" of wine

an aside to explain to his audience how he obtained the wine...

When young Dawn with her rose-red fingers shone once more

I called a muster briskly, commanding all the hands,
'The rest of you stay here, my friends-in-arms.

personification
passage of time

I'll go across with my own ship and crew
and probe the natives living over there.

takes 1 ship

What are they—violent, savage, lawless?
or friendly to strangers, god-fearing men?

With that I boarded ship and told the crew
to embark at once and cast off cables quickly.

stirred

They swung aboard, they sat to the oars in ranks
and in rhythm churned the water white with stroke on stroke.

But as soon as we reached the coast I mentored—no long trip—

short trip

we spied a cavern just at the shore, gaping above the surf,
towering, overgrown with laurel. And here big flocks,
sheep and goats, were stalled to spend the nights,
and around its mouth a yard was walled up
with quarried boulders sunk deep in the earth
and enormous pines and oak-trees looming darkly ...

Here was a giant's lair, in fact, who always pastured
his sheepflocks far afield and never mixed with others

A grim loner, dead set in his own lawless ways.

Here was a piece of work, by god, a monster

built like no mortal who ever supped on bread,

no, like a shaggy peak, I'd say—a man-mountain

rearing head and shoulders over the world.

Now then, I told most of my good trusty crew to wait,
to sit tight by the ship and guard her well
while I picked out my dozen finest fighters and off I went.

But I took a skin of wine along, xenia
the ruddy, irresistible wine that Maron gave me once,

Euanthes' son, a priest of Apollo, lord of Ismarus,
because we'd rescued him, his wife and children,
reverent as we were; he lived, you see, in Apollo's holy grove.

And so in return he gave me splendid gifts,
he handed me seven bars of well-wrought gold,
a mixing-bowl of solid silver, then this wine ...

10:58

personification

epic simile

simile

anecdote: story

12

16

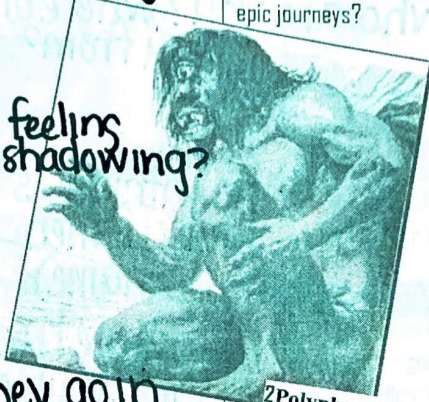
154. He drew it off in generous wine-jars, twelve in all,
 155. all unmixed—and such a bouquet, a drink fit for the gods!
 156. No maid or man of his household knew that secret store,
 157. only himself, his loving wife and a single servant.
 158. Whenever they'd drink the deep-red mellow vintage,
 159. twenty cups of water he'd stir in one of wine
 160. and what an aroma wafted from the bowl—
 161. what magic, what a godsend—
 162. no joy in holding back when that was poured!
 163. Filling a great goatskin now, I took this wine—
 164. provisions too in a leather sack

explanation
 of wine
 as of the
 gods mixed
 w/ water
 (ambrosia)

Who/ What does Odysseus bring with him to the land of the cyclopes?
 12 men
 special wine

165. A sudden foreboding
 166. told my righting spirit I'd soon come up against
 167. some giant clad in power like armor-plate—
 168. a savage deaf to justice, blind to law.
 169. Our party quickly made its way to his cave
 170. but we failed to find our host himself inside;
 171. he was off in his pasture, ranging his sleek flocks
 172. So we explored his den, gazing wide-eyed at it all
 173. the large flat racks loaded with drying cheeses,
 174. the folds crowded with young lambs and kids,
 175. split into three groups—here the spring-born,
 176. here mid-yearlings, here the fresh sucklings
 177. off to the side—each sort was penned apart.
 178. And all his vessels, pails and hammered buckets
 179. he used for milking, were brimming full with whey.

bad feelings
 foreshadowing?



2 Polyphemus

they go in
 make themselves
 at home/ look
 around.

180. From the start my comrades pressed me, pleading hard,
 181. 'Let's make away with the cheeses, then come back—
 182. hurry, drive the lambs and kids from the pens
 183. to our swift ship, put out to sea at once!'

184. But I would not give way—
 185. and how much better it would have been—
 186. not till I saw him, saw what gifts he'd give!

foreshadowing*

187. But he proved no lovely sight to my companions.
 188. There we built a fire, set our hands on the cheeses,
 189. offered some to the gods and ate the bulk ourselves
 190. and settled down inside, awaiting his return ...

191. And back he came from pasture, late in the day,
 192. herding his flocks home, and lugging a huge load
 193. of good dry logs to fuel his fire at supper.

they
 hide in the
 back in a
 dark space of
 the cave

194. He flung them down in the cave—a jolting crash—
 195. we scuttled in panic into the deepest dark recess.
 196. And next he drove his sleek flocks into the open vault,
 197. all he'd milk at least, but he left the males outside,
 198. rams and billy goats out in the high-walled yard.

199. Then to close his door he hoisted overhead
 200. a tremendous, massive slab—
 201. no twenty-two wagons, rugged and four-wheeled,
 202. could budge that boulder off the ground, I tell you.

massive
 boulder
 to block
 cavern
 entrance

203. such an immense stone the monster wedged to block his cave!
 204. Then down he squatted to milk his sheep and bleating goats,
 205. each in order, and put a suckling underneath each dam.

206. And half of the fresh white milk he curdled quickly,
 207. set it aside in wicker racks to press for cheese,
 208. the other half let stand in pails and buckets,
 ready at hand to wash his supper down.

The cyclops begins milking his goats
 and preparing to make cheese → CHORES

*What does the anecdote about obtaining the wine say about epic journeys?

Highlight instances of Greek religious beliefs and evidence of the will of the gods.

What is Odysseus admitting here (underlined portion)?
 he is admitting that
 he should have listened
 to his men when they
 wanted to leave

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Odysseus	His men
Curious	Loyal
Strategic	Sneaky
hard-headed	scared
adventurous	
Stubborn	

What can we learn about the traits of an epic hero from his actions?

Comprehension: Summarize the events of this episode.

NC 10 Close Reading/Annotations/ and Related Questions: The Cyclops (the cave)

Cyclops (Polyphemus)

Odysseus

THE CAVE

Cyclops

Where is your ship?

209. As soon as he'd briskly finished all his chores
210. he lit his fire and spied us in the blaze and
211. 'Strangers!' he thundered out, 'now who are you?
212. Where did you sail from, over the running sea-lanes?
213. Out on a trading spree or roving the waves like pirates,
214. sea-wolves raiding at will, who risk their lives
215. to plunder other men?'
216. The hearts inside us shook.

He sees them
who are you? where are you from?

Epics include a mixture of the everyday and the supernatural. How does the Cyclops represent that?

217. terrified by his rumbling voice and monstrous hulk.
218. Nevertheless I found the nerve to answer, firmly,
219. 'Men of Achaea we are and bound now from Troy!
220. Driven far off course by the warring winds,
221. over the vast gulf of the sea—battling home
222. on a strange tack, a route that's off the map,
223. and so we've come to you ...

he introduces himself/men (no name)

What is Odysseus suggesting about the misfortunes that occur on a journey?

224. so it must please King Zeus's plotting heart
225. We're glad to say we're men of Atrides Agamemnon,
226. whose fame is the proudest thing on earth these days,
227. so great a city he sacked, such multitudes he killed!

they are having some trouble getting home

228. But since we've chanced on you, we're at your knees
229. in hopes of a warm welcome, even a guest-gift,
230. the sort that hosts give strangers. That's the custom.

What custom is Odysseus referencing in the boxed text?

231. Respect the gods, my friend. We're suppliants—at your mercy!
232. Zeus of the Strangers guards all guests and suppliants:
233. strangers are sacred—Zeus will avenge their rights!
234. 'Stranger,' he grumbled back from his brutal heart,
235. 'you must be a fool, stranger, or come from nowhere
236. telling me to fear the gods or avoid their wrath!
237. We Cyclops never blink at Zeus and Zeus's shield
238. of storm and thunder, or any other blessed god—
239. we've got more force by far.

gods intervention

Highlight/Summarize Cyclops response to Odysseus with regard to the gods.

240. I'd never spare you in fear of Zeus's hatred,
241. you or your comrades here, unless I had the urge.
242. But tell me, where did you moor your sturdy ship
243. when you arrived? Up the coast or close in?
244. I'd just like to know.'

don't tell me to fear the gods. →
I don't care about Zeus →

245. So he laid his trap
246. but he never caught me, no, wise to the world
247. I shot back in my crafty way, 'My ship?
248. Poseidon god of the earthquake smashed my ship,
249. he drove it against the rocks at your island's far cape,
250. dashed it against a cliff as the winds rode us in.
251. I and the men you see escaped a sudden death.
252. Not a word in reply to that, the ruthless brute.

We are just as powerful
Odysseus tells lie #1

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Odysseus	His actions/motivations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> leader brave/calm in charge "wise to the world" strategic crafty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> he is in charge of the men he is trying to get Cyclops to not kill them he recognizes the trap

253. Lurching up, he lunged out with his hands toward my men
254. and snatching two at once, rapping them on the ground
255. he knocked them dead like pups—
256. their brains gushed out all over, soaked the floor—
257. and ripping them limb from limb to fix his meal
258. he bolted them down like a mountain-lion, left no scrap,
259. devoured entrails, flesh and bones, marrow and all!

Cyclops responds by grabbing two men, banging their heads on the ground and eating them.

smiles

(18:47)

Character Traits Reference Sheet

We flung our arms to Zeus, we wept and cried aloud

261. looking on at his grisly work—paralyzed, appalled.
262. But once the Cyclops had stuffed his enormous gut
263. with human flesh, washing it down with raw milk,
264. he slept in his cave, stretched out along his flocks.
265. And I with my fighting heart I thought at first
266. to steal up to him, draw the sharp sword at my hip
267. and stab his chest where the midriff packs the liver—
268. I groped for the fatal spot but a fresh thought held me back.
269. There at a stroke we'd finish off ourselves as well—
270. how could we with our bare hands heave back
271. that slab he set to block his cavern's gaping maw?
272. So we lay there groaning, waiting Dawn's first light.

"fighting heart" wants revenge

} thinks it through } they'd be stuck

When young Dawn with her rose-red fingers shone once more

(personification/new day)

274. the monster relit his fire and milked his handsome ewes,
275. each in order, putting a suckling underneath each dam,
276. and as soon as he'd briskly finished all his chores
277. he snatched up two more men and fixed his meal.
278. Well-fed, he drove his fat sheep from the cave,
279. lightly lifting the huge doorslab up and away,
280. then slipped it back in place

Cyclops finishes his morning chores then eats two more men

as a hunter flips the lid of his quiver shut.

simple/closes the cave (traps them inside)

282. Piercing whistles—turning his flocks to the hills
283. he left me there, the heart inside me brooding on revenge:
284. how could I pay him back? would Athena give me glory?

What appears to be Odysseus's plan?

The Plan:

285. Here was the plan that struck my mind as best ...
286. the Cyclops' great club: there it lay by the pens,
287. olivewood, full of sap. He'd lopped it off to brandish
288. once it dried. Looking it over, we judged it big enough
289. to be the mast of a pitch-black ship with her twenty oars,
290. a freighter broad in the beam that plows through miles of sea—
291. so long, so thick it bulked before our eyes. Well,
292. flanking it now, I chopped off a fathom's length,
293. pushed it to comrades, told them to plane it down,
294. and they made the club smooth as I bent and shaved
295. the tip to a stabbing point. I turned it over
296. the blazing fire to char it good and hard,
297. then hid it well, buried deep under the dung
298. that littered the cavern's floor in thick wet clumps.

use cyclops' club (bat) estimated size

- about six feet (reference to water)

- cuts it
- gives it a point
- puts it in the fire to harden
- hid it

If you were Odysseus's men, would you want to be picked to carry out this plan?

299. And now I ordered my shipmates all to cast lots
300. who'd brave it out with me to hoist our stake and grind it into his eye
301. when sleep had overcome him? Luck of the draw:
302. I got the very ones I would have picked myself,
303. four good men, and I in the lead made five ...
304. Nightfall brought him back, herding his woolly sheep
305. and he quickly drove the sleek flock into the vaulted cavern,
306. rams and all—none left outside in the walled yard—
307. his own idea, perhaps, or a god led him on.

draw it - hid it in a pile of poo - draw for who will be part of the attack - 4 men + Odysseus

How does the cyclops behave toward the Greek soldiers?

308. Then he hoisted the huge slab to block the door
309. and squatted to milk his sheep and bleating goats,
310. each in order, putting a suckling underneath each dam,
311. and as soon as he'd briskly finished all his chores
312. he snatched up two more men and fixed his meal.
313. But this time I lifted a carved wooden bowl,

Cyclops comes in, does chores, eats two more men

NC II Close Reading/Annotations/ and Related Questions: The Cyclops (the cave/escape)

Odysseus

Odysseus bring Cyclops the wine he brought along w/ him after he eats O's men

Cyclops (Polyphemus)

Odysseus

Odysseus:

encouraging raising his men to courage

314. brimful of my ruddy wine,
 315. and went right up to the Cyclops, enticing,
 316. 'Here, Cyclops, try this wine—to top off
 317. the banquet of human flesh you've bolted down!
 318. Judge for yourself what stock our ship had stored.
 319. I brought it here to make you a fine libation, drink
 320. hoping you would pity me, Cyclops, send me home,
 321. but your rages are insufferable. You barbarian—
 322. how can any man on earth come visit you after this?
 323. What you've done outrages all that's right!
 324. At that he seized the bowl and tossed it off
 325. and the heady wine pleased him immensely. 'More'—
 326. he demanded a second bowl—a hearty helping!
 327. And tell me your name now, quickly,
 328. so I can hand my guest a gift to warm his heart.
 329. Our soil yields the Cyclops powerful, full-bodied wine
 330. and the rains from Zeus build its strength. But this,
 331. this is nectar, ambrosia—this flows from heaven!
 332. So he declared. I poured him another fiery bowl—
 333. three bowls I brimmed and three he drank to the last drop,
 334. the fool, and then, when the wine was swirling round his brain,
 335. I approached my host with a cordial, winning word:
 336. 'So, you ask me the name I'm known by, Cyclops?
 337. I will tell you. But you must give me a guest-gift
 338. as you've promised. Nobody—that's my name. Nobody—
 339. so my mother and father call me, all my friends.'
 340. But he boomed back at me from his ruthless heart,
 341. 'Nobody? I'll eat Nobody last of all his friends—
 342. I'll eat the others first! That's my gift to you!
 343. With that he toppled over, sprawled full-length, flat on his back
 344. and lay there, his massive neck slumping to one side,
 345. and sleep that conquers all overwhelmed him now
 346. as wine came spurting, flooding up from his gullet
 347. with chunks of human flesh—he vomited, blind drunk.
 348. Now, at last, I thrust our stake in a bed of embers
 349. to get it red-hot and rallied all my comrades:
 350. 'Courage—no panic, no one hang back now!
 351. And green as it was, just as the olive stake
 352. was about to catch fire—the glow terrific, yes—
 353. I dragged it from the flames, my men clustering round
 354. as some god breathed enormous courage through us all.
 355. Hoisting high that olive stake with its stabbing point,
 356. straight into the monster's eye they rammed it hard—
 357. I drove my weight on it from above and bored it home
 358. till blood came boiling up around that smoking shaft
 359. and the hot blast singed his brow and eyelids round the core
 360. and the broiling eyeball burst—
 361. its crackling roots blazed
 362. and hissed—
 363. as a shipwright bores his beam with a shipwright's drill
 364. that men below, whipping the strap back and forth, whirl
 365. and the drill keeps twisting faster, never stopping—
 366. So we seized our stake with its fiery tip

(name calling) - you will be sharped (xenia)

give me more tell me your name & you'll get your guest gift.

knows it's ambrosia wants more

*Odysseus tells his and lie.

*NOBODY

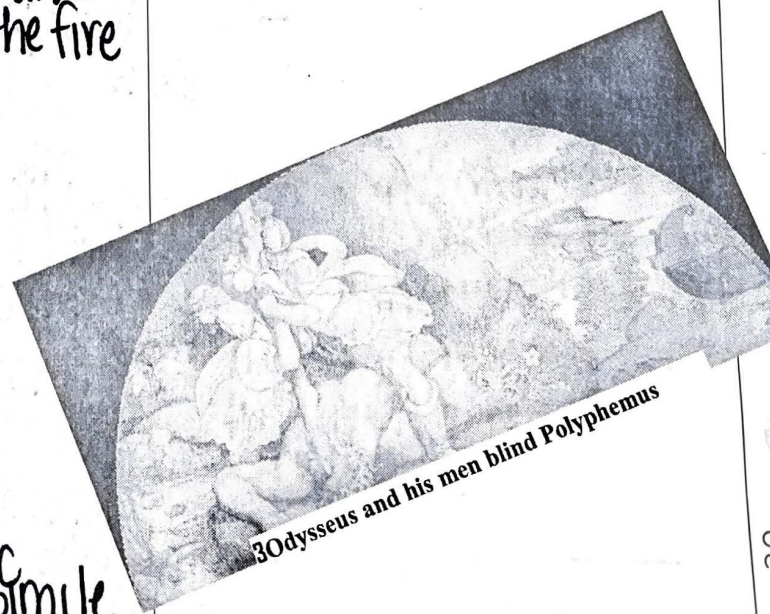
Polyphemus passes out drunk. coals of the fire

burnt

epic simile

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Odysseus	His actions/motivations
vengeful frustrated angry crafty strategic tactical prudent	his men are being eaten he's stuck (large boulder) - has to find a way to get out/ stay alive

Comprehension: Summarize the events of this episode.



and bored it round and round in the giant's eye
as a blacksmith plunges a glowing ax or adze
in an ice-cold bath and the metal screeches steam
and its temper hardens—that's the iron's strength—
so the eye of the Cyclops sizzled round that stake!

epic similes

He loosed a hideous roar, the rock walls echoed round
and we scuttled back in terror. The monster wrenched the spike
from his eye and out it came with a red geyser of blood—
he flung it aside with frantic hands, and mad with pain
he bellowed out for help from his neighbor Cyclops
living round about in caves on windswept crags.

large spout

Hearing his cries, they lumbered up from every side
and hulking round his cavern, asked what ailed him:
'What, Polyphemus, what in the world's the trouble?
Roaring out in the godsent night to rob us of our sleep.
Surely no one's rustling your flocks against your will—
surely no one's trying to kill you now by fraud or force!

Other Cyclops

Nobody, friends'—Polyphemus bellowed back from his cave—
'Nobody's killing me now by fraud and not by force.'
If you're alone,' his friends boomed back at once,
'and nobody's trying to overpower you now—look,
it must be a plague sent here by mighty Zeus
and there's no escape from that.

Polyphemus Others

We find out Polyphemus' father is Poseidon

You'd better pray to your father, Lord Poseidon.'
They lumbered off, but laughter filled my heart
to think how nobody's name—my great cunning stroke—
had duped them one and all. But the Cyclops there,
still groaning, racked with agony, groped around
for the huge slab, and heaving it from the doorway,
down he sat in the cave's mouth, his arms spread wide,
hoping to catch a comrade stealing out with sheep—
such a blithering fool he took me for!

What information did the readers just discover about Polyphemus's family?

BLIND Polyphemus stood at the entrance hoping to catch someone trying to escape

How did Odysseus use his wit in this passage?

But I was already plotting ...
what was the best way out? how could I find
escape from death for my crew, myself as well?

My wits kept weaving, weaving cunning schemes—
life at stake, monstrous death staring us in the face—
till this plan struck my mind as best. That flock,
those well-fed rams with their splendid thick fleece,
sturdy, handsome beasts sporting their dark weight of wool:
I lashed them abreast, quietly, twisting the willow-twigs
the Cyclops slept on—giant, lawless brute—I took them
three by three; each ram in the middle bore a man
while the two rams either side would shield him well.
So three beasts to bear each man, but as for myself?

New Plan

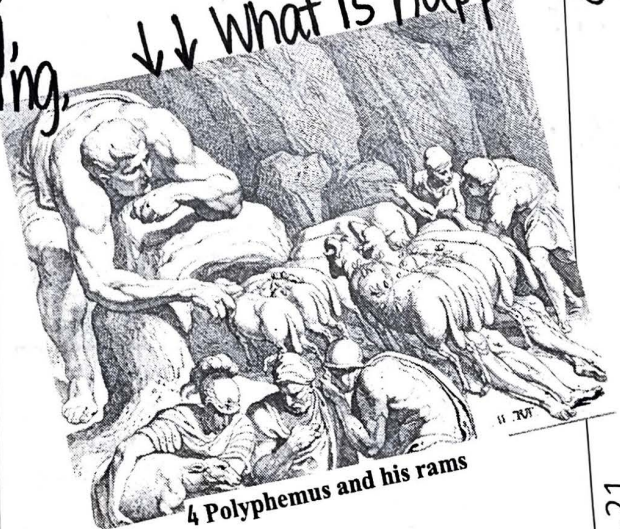
O: plotting, scheming, strategizing, planning

There was one bellwether ram, the prize of all the flock,
and clutching him by his back, tucked up under
his shaggy belly, there I hung, face upward,
both hands locked in his marvelous deep fleece,
clinging for dear life, my spirit steeled, enduring ...
So we held on, desperate, waiting Dawn's first light.

As soon as young Dawn with her rose-red fingers shone once more
the rams went rumbling out of the cave toward pasture,

new day, personification

What is happening?



4 Polyphemus and his rams

NC 12 Close Reading/Annotations/ and Related Questions: The Cyclops (the escape)

Polyphemus
THE ESCAPE

cuts their mourning short

Odysseus

420. the ewes kept bleating round the pens, un milked,
 421. their udders about to burst. Their master now,
 422. heaving in torment, felt the back of each animal
 423. halting before him here, but the idiot never sensed
 424. my men were trussed up under their thick fleecy ribs.
 425. And last of them all came my great ram now, striding out,
 426. weighed down with his dense wool and my deep plots.
 427. Stroking him gently, powerful Polyphemus murmured,
 428. Dear old ram, why last of the flock to quit the cave?
 429. In the good old days you'd never lag behind the rest—
 430. you with your long marching strides, first by far
 431. of the flock to graze the fresh young grasses,
 432. first by far to reach the rippling streams,
 433. first to turn back home, keen for your fold
 434. when night comes on—but now you're last of all.
 435. And why? Sick at heart for your master's eye
 436. that coward gouged out with his wicked crew?—
 437. only after he'd stunned my wits with wine—
 438. that, that Nobody ...
 439. who's not escaped his death, I swear, not yet.
 440. Oh if only you thought like me, had words like me
 441. to tell me where that scoundrel is cringing from my rage!
 442. I'd smash him against the ground, I'd spill his brains—
 443. flooding across my cave—and that would ease my heart
 444. of the pains that good-for-nothing Nobody made me suffer!
 445. And with that threat he let my ram go free outside.
 446. But soon as we'd got one foot past cave and courtyard,
 447. first I loosed myself from the ram, then loosed my men,
 448. then quickly, glancing back again and again we drove
 449. our flock, good plump beasts with their long sharks,
 450. straight to the ship, and a welcome sight we were
 451. to loyal comrades—we who'd escaped our deaths—
 452. but for all the rest they broke down and wailed.
 453. I cut it short, I stopped each shipmate's cries,
 454. my head tossing, brows frowning, silent signals
 455. to hurry, tumble our fleecy herd on board,
 456. launch out on the open sea!
 457. They swung aboard, they sat to the oars in rank;
 458. and in rhythm churned the water white with stroke on stroke.
 459. But once offshore as far as a man's shout can carry,
 460. I called back to the Cyclops, stinging taunts:
 461. 'So, Cyclops, no weak coward it was whose crew
 462. you bent to devour there in your vaulted cave—
 463. you with your brute force! Your filthy crimes
 464. came down on your own head, you shameless cannibal,
 465. daring to eat your guests in your own house—
 466. so Zeus and the other gods have paid you back!
 467. That made the rage of the monster boil over.
 468. Ripping off the peak of a towering crag, he heaved it
 469. so hard the boulder landed just in front of our dark prow
 470. and a huge swell reared up as the rock went plunging under—
 471. a tidal wave from the open sea. The sudden backwash

notifies the ram
Odysseus is hiding under

Why are you last?

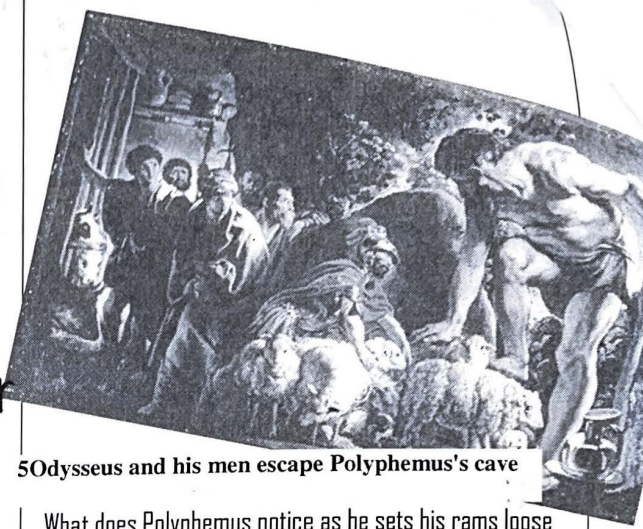
if only you could tell me

they steal the rams

Odysseus quiets them down and commands them to launch the ship

begins insulting Polyphemus as he gets away.

Infuriates Polyphemus who hurls a boulder at his ship.



5 Odysseus and his men escape Polyphemus's cave

What does Polyphemus notice as he sets his rams loose to roam?

How would you characterize Polyphemus? Highlight evidence from the text that supports your answer.

Summarize how Odysseus and his men escape.

Note the reactions of Odysseus's crew upon his return.

30

FF'

drove us landward again, forcing us close inshore
 but grabbing a long pole, I thrust us off and away,
 tossing my head for dear life, signaling crews
 to put their backs in the oars, escape grim death.
 They threw themselves in the labor, rowed on fast
 but once we'd plowed the breakers twice as far,
 again I began to taunt the Cyclops—men around me
 trying to check me, calm me, left and right:

boulder almost gets them



THE CYCLOPS IN HIS WRATH BLAKE OFF THE TOP OF A GREAT HILL

O's men:

'So headstrong—why? Why rile the beast again?'
 'That rock he flung in the sea just now, hurling our ship
 to shore once more—we thought we'd die on the spot!'
 'If he'd caught a sound from one of us, just a whisper,
 he would have crushed our heads and ship timbers
 with one heave of another flashing, jagged rock!'
 'Good god, the brute can throw!'

So they begged but they could not bring my fighting spirit round.

I called back with another burst of anger, 'Cyclops—
 if any man on the face of the earth should ask you
 who blinded you, shamed you so—say Odysseus,
 raider of cities, he gouged out your eye,
 Laertes' son who makes his home in Ithaca!'

hubris: extreme pride

Odysseus

Polyphemus

So I vaunted and he groaned back in answer,
 'Oh no, no—that prophecy years ago ...
 it all comes home to me with a vengeance now!
 We once had a prophet here, a great tall man,
 Telemus, Eurymus' son, a master at reading signs,
 who grew old in his trade among his fellow-Cyclops.
 All this, he warned me, would come to pass someday—
 that I'd be blinded here at the hands of one Odysseus.'

There was a prophecy!

But I always looked for a handsome giant man to cross my path,
 some fighter clad in power like armor-plate, but now,
 look what a dwarf, a spineless good-for-nothing,
 stuns me with wine, then gouges out my eye!
 Come here, Odysseus, let me give you a guest-gift
 and urge Poseidon the earthquake god to speed you home.

Nobody

I am his son and he claims to be my father, true,
 and he himself will heal me if he pleases—
 no other blessed god, no man can do the work!
 'Heal you!'— here was my parting shot—'Would to god I could strip you
 of life and breath and ship you down to the House of Death
 as surely as no one will ever heal your eye,
 not even your earthquake god himself!'

What was the prophecy about? Why is Polyphemus so upset?

he hoped for a giant, someone worthy of blinding him, not a coward who got him drunk/blinded him

Odysseus

Polyphemus Prayer

But at that he bellowed out to lord Poseidon,
 thrusting his arms to the starry skies, and prayed, 'Hear me—
 Poseidon, god of the sea-blue mane who rocks the earth!
 If I really am your son and you claim to be my father—
 come grant that Odysseus, raider of cities,
 Laertes' son who makes his home in Ithaca,
 never reaches home if he's fated to see
 his people once again and reach his well-built house
 and his own native country, let him come home late
 and lame a broken man—all shipmates lost,
 alone in a stranger's ship—
 and let him find a world of pain at home!'

Highlight and number the parts of Polyphemus's prayer.

Comprehension: Summarize the events of this episode.

Ilco Character Traits Reference Sheet

Character Traits displayed in this episode	
Odysseus	His men
proudful vengeful commanding desires fame	

NC 13 Connecting Characterization to Theme: Book 9 The Cyclops

12 - 1

526. So he prayed
 527. and the god of the sea-blue mane Poseidon heard his prayer.
 528. The monster suddenly hoisted a boulder—far larger—
 529. wheeled and heaved it, putting his weight behind it,
 530. massive strength, and the boulder crashed close,
 531. landing just in the wake of our dark stern,
 532. just failing to graze the rudder's bladed edge.
 533. A huge swell reared up as the rock went plunging under,
 534. yes, and the tidal breaker drove us out to our island's
 535. far shore where all my well-decked ships lay moored,
 536. clustered, waiting, and huddled round them, crewmen
 537. sat in anguish, waiting, chafing for our return.
 538. We beached our vessel hard ashore on the sand,
 539. we swung out in the frothing surf ourselves,
 540. and herding Cyclops' sheep from our deep holds
 541. (we shared them round so no one, not on my account,
 542. would go deprived of his fair share of spoils.)
 543. But the splendid ram—as we meted out the flocks
 544. my friends-in-arms made him my prize of honor,
 545. mine alone, and I slaughtered him on the beach
 546. and burnt his thighs to Cronus' mighty son,
 547. Zeus of the thundercloud who rules the world.
 548. But my sacrifices failed to move the god:
 549. Zeus was still obsessed with plans to destroy
 550. my entire oarswept fleet and loyal crew of comrades.
 551. Now all day long till the sun went down we sat
 552. and feasted on sides of meat and heady wine.
 553. Then when the sun had set and night came on
 554. we lay down and slept at the water's shelving edge.
 555. When young Dawn with her rose-red fingers shone once more
 556. I roused the men straightway, ordering all crews
 557. to man the ships and cast off cables quickly.
 558. They swung aboard at once, they sat to the oars in ranks
 559. and in rhythm churned the water white with stroke on stroke.
 560. And from there we sailed on, glad to escape our death
 561. yet sick at heart for the comrades we had lost."

foreshadowing
 one more
 toss that
 almost
 hits them
 but makes
 a wave that
 pushes them
 out to sea.

makes
 sacrifices
 foreshadowing

mourning

Based on what you know about Odysseus's journey home from the invocation, how does this passage impact the events of his future?

What did Odysseus do with Polyphemus's rams? How does it connect to Greek religious beliefs?

How do his men feel about the loss of their comrades?

Episode Summary	Odysseus's Character Traits	Textual Evidence Commentary
Summarize each major episode in column one.	Choose character traits that describe Odysseus.	Choose textual evidence and analyze how Odysseus reacts to other characters and conflicts. What do his reactions reveal about him?
The Cyclops ISLAND	(p.11)	I quote

summary list