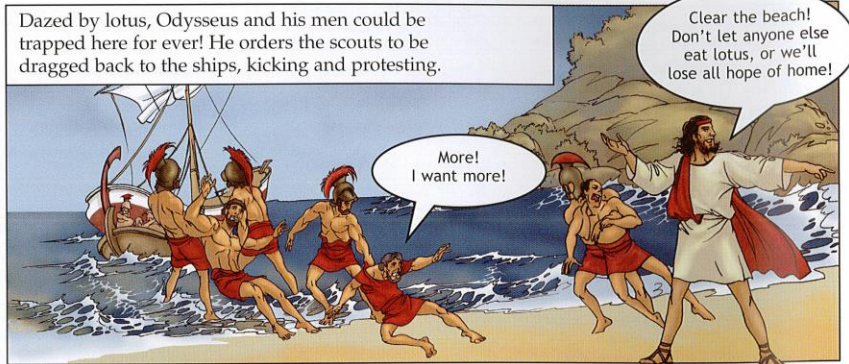


IN THE CAVE OF THE CYCLOPS

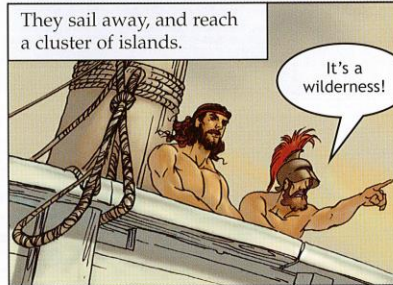
Dazed by lotus, Odysseus and his men could be trapped here for ever! He orders the scouts to be dragged back to the ships, kicking and protesting.



Clear the beach! Don't let anyone else eat lotus, or we'll lose all hope of home!

More! I want more!

They sail away, and reach a cluster of islands.

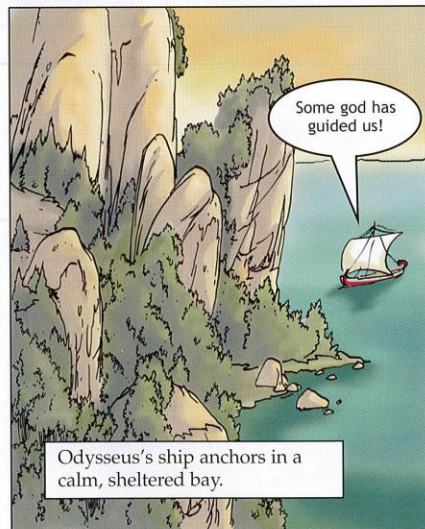


It's a wilderness!

The biggest island is home to the Cyclopes!¹ But Odysseus doesn't know this yet. He's just pleased to have found a good harbor.



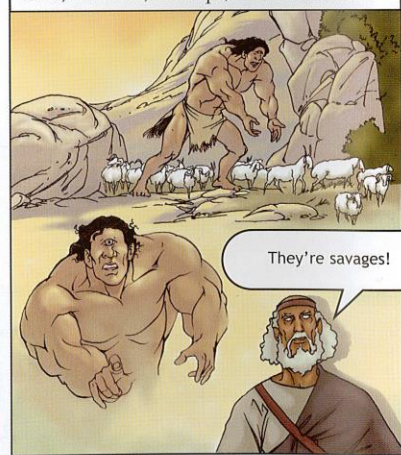
Grunt!



Some god has guided us!

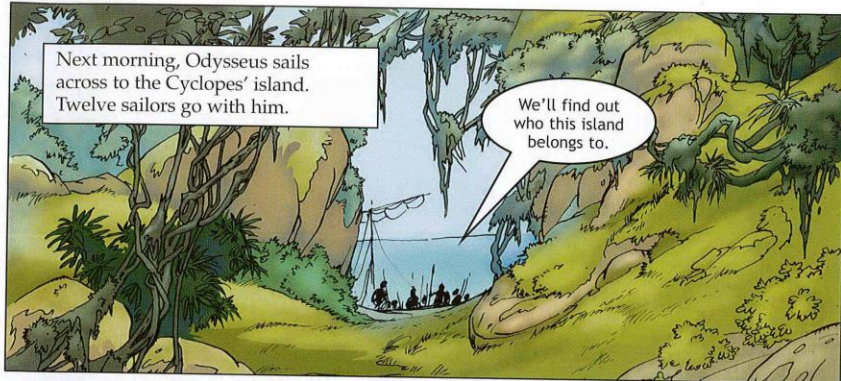
Odysseus's ship anchors in a calm, sheltered bay.

The Cyclopes keep flocks of sheep on the island's green pastures. But they have no laws, no fields, no ships, no communities.



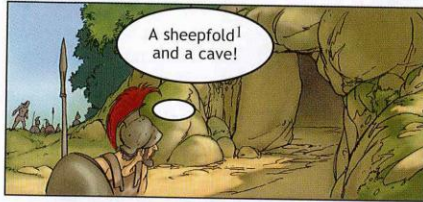
They're savages!

1. Cyclopes (pronounced "SY-clo-pees"): a race of brutal giants with one eye in the middle of their foreheads. "Cyclopes" is the plural of "Cyclops," which means "round eye" in Greek.

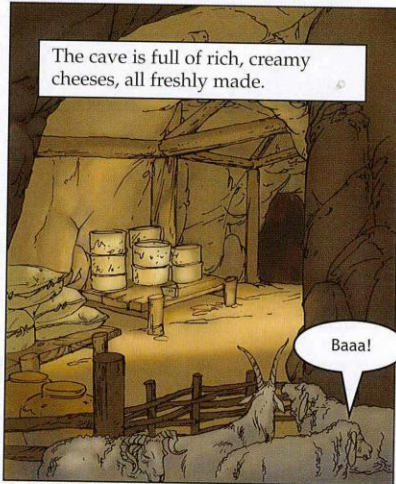


Next morning, Odysseus sails across to the Cyclopes' island. Twelve sailors go with him.

We'll find out who this island belongs to.

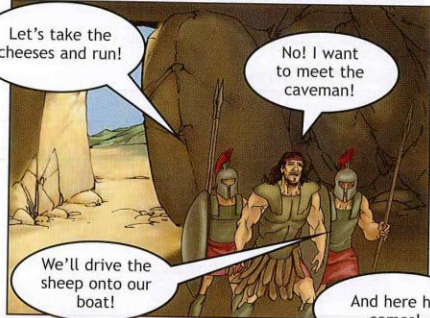


A sheepfold and a cave!



The cave is full of rich, creamy cheeses, all freshly made.

Baaa!

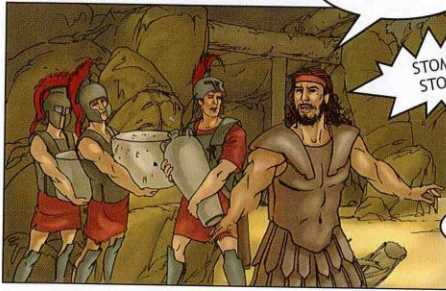


Let's take the cheeses and run!

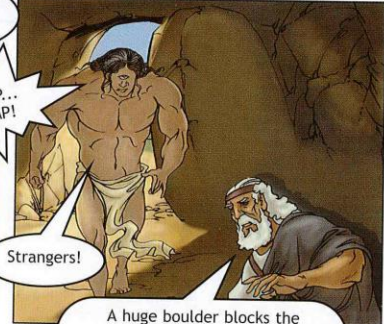
No! I want to meet the caveman!

We'll drive the sheep onto our boat!

And here he comes!



STOMP... STOMP!



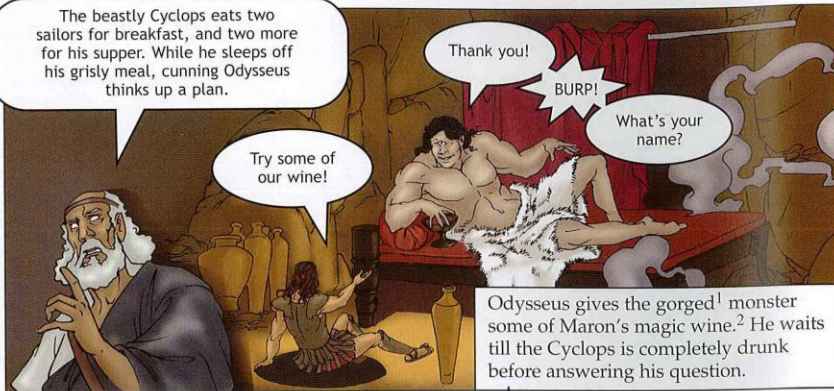
Strangers!

A huge boulder blocks the entrance to the cave. Odysseus and the surviving sailors are trapped!

1. sheepfold: a pen for sheep or goats.

NOBODY

The beastly Cyclops eats two sailors for breakfast, and two more for his supper. While he sleeps off his grisly meal, cunning Odysseus thinks up a plan.



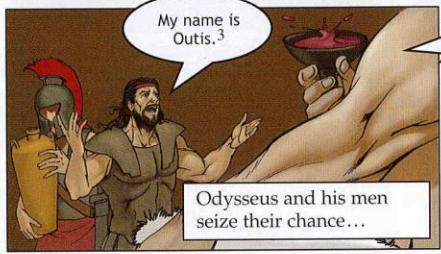
Try some of our wine!

Thank you!

BURP!

What's your name?

Odysseus gives the gorged¹ monster some of Maron's magic wine.² He waits till the Cyclops is completely drunk before answering his question.

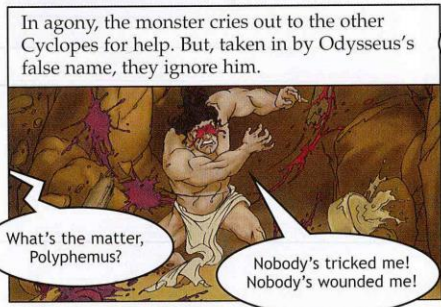


My name is Outis.³

AAARGH!

They blind the drunken Cyclops with a pointed stick.

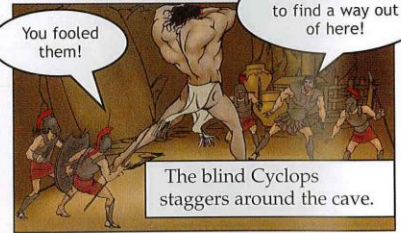
Odysseus and his men seize their chance...



In agony, the monster cries out to the other Cyclopes for help. But, taken in by Odysseus's false name, they ignore him.

What's the matter, Polyphemus?

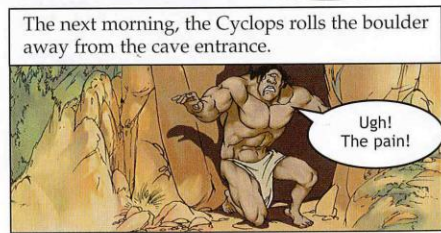
Nobody's tricked me! Nobody's wounded me!



You fooled them!

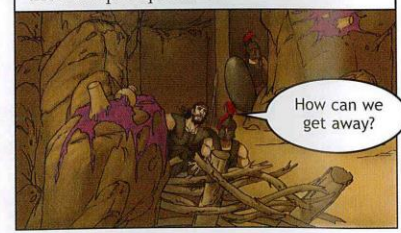
But we still have to find a way out of here!

The blind Cyclops staggers around the cave.



The next morning, the Cyclops rolls the boulder away from the cave entrance.

Ugh! The pain!



How can we get away?

18
1. gorged: greedily stuffed full of food.
2. Maron's magic wine: see page 14.
3. Outis: Greek for "nobody."

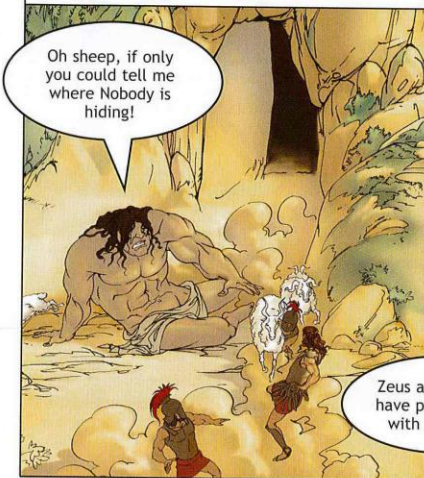
Wily Odysseus has another clever idea. The Cyclops's sheep are huge and strong, with long, curly fleeces.



A man could hide underneath one and never be found!



The Cyclops pats his sheep as they leave the cave—but he does not find Odysseus and his men tied underneath them.



Oh sheep, if only you could tell me where Nobody is hiding!

Free at last, Odysseus and the surviving sailors dash for their ship.



Safely back on board, Odysseus jeers at the Cyclops.



You shouldn't eat your visitors!
Zeus and the gods have punished you with blindness!

Be careful, sir! You'll only provoke him.



The furious Cyclops hurls a huge boulder at the ship...



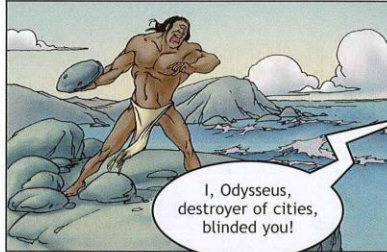
... but, luckily, the splash just pushes the ship further on.



So Odysseus and his men think they are safe, but worse is to come...

AEOLUS AND THE WINDS

As the Cyclops gets ready to hurl another massive rock, Odysseus continues to taunt him.



I, Odysseus, destroyer of cities, blinded you!

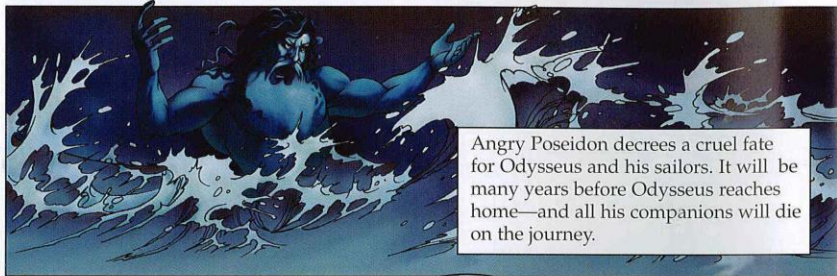
Hear me, Lord Poseidon!



I hear!

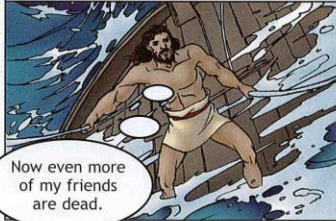


Deep beneath the waves, Poseidon, god of the sea, hears the wounded Cyclops's prayer.



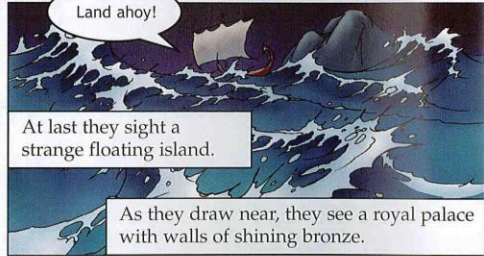
Angry Poseidon decrees a cruel fate for Odysseus and his sailors. It will be many years before Odysseus reaches home—and all his companions will die on the journey.

They sail on through stormy seas.



Now even more of my friends are dead.

Land ahoy!



At last they sight a strange floating island.

As they draw near, they see a royal palace with walls of shining bronze.

It belongs to Aeolus...



Welcome to my home.

... guardian of the winds.



They are guests in his palace for a month. They rest, they feast, they play sports, and they tell tales of their epic adventures.

When it's time to leave, Aeolus gives Odysseus a magnificent present. It's a leather bag...

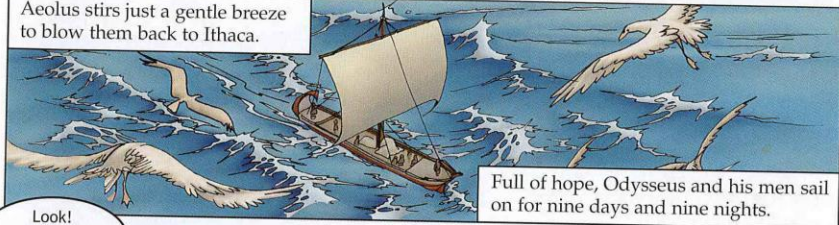


... with all the wild winds tied up inside it!

As long as the bag stays closed, Odysseus need never worry that the winds will be against him.

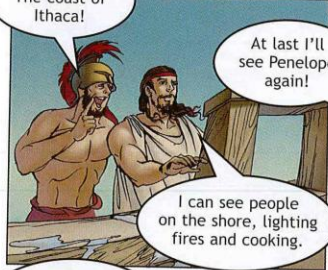


Aeolus stirs just a gentle breeze to blow them back to Ithaca.



Full of hope, Odysseus and his men sail on for nine days and nine nights.

Look! The coast of Ithaca!



At last I'll see Penelope again!

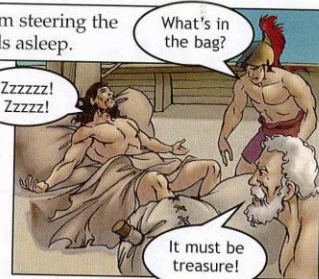
I can see people on the shore, lighting fires and cooking.

But, exhausted from steering the ship, Odysseus falls asleep.



Zzzzz!
Zzzzz!

What's in the bag?



It must be treasure!

What about our share? Almost home, with no gold or silver?

Open it!



A screaming hurricane blasts the ship back to Aeolus's island.



Where is Ithaca now?

Go! I will not help a man cursed by the gods!



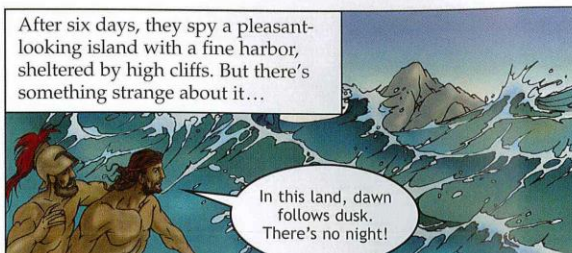
Aeolus is angry and will not help them again.

GIANTS—AND SORCERY

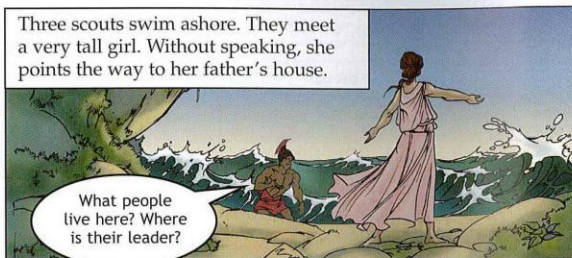
There is nothing they can do but sail on.



After six days, they spy a pleasant-looking island with a fine harbor, sheltered by high cliffs. But there's something strange about it...



Three scouts swim ashore. They meet a very tall girl. Without speaking, she points the way to her father's house.



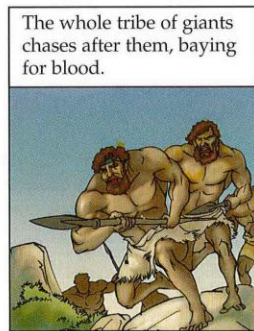
The people here are giants—and they're hungry!



One helpless scout is torn in two and devoured. The other scouts run for their lives.



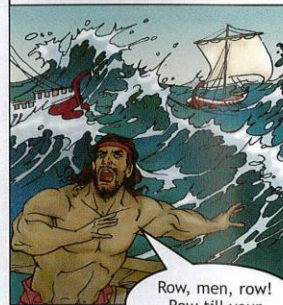
The whole tribe of giants chases after them, baying for blood.



They pelt the ships with rocks and spear the helpless sailors like fish.



Only Odysseus's own ship, anchored further from the shore, escapes the butchery.



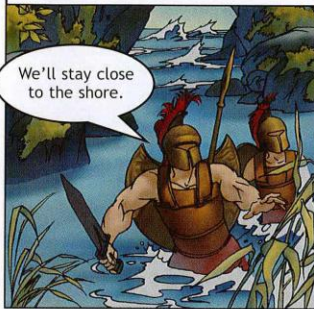
Mournful and exhausted, Odysseus and his crew arrive at the island of Aeaea.¹



More grief!

It's enchanting—and enchanted!

This time the frightened men draw lots to decide who goes ashore.



We'll stay close to the shore.

A fine house stands half-hidden in the trees.



Welcome! I am Circe.

A beautiful woman greets the men. Lions and wolves prowl around, wagging their tails in a friendly way—most strange!



One of the men wisely decides to wait outside.



Is she a goddess? Or a witch?

The lone watchman rushes back to find Odysseus.



They've been transformed by evil magic!

The rest go in with Circe, who graciously offers them food and wine. It's all delicious—but as they eat, they find themselves changing shape...

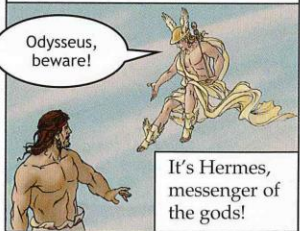


Oink!

Grunt!

... and Circe drives them all into a pigsty!

Suddenly a dazzling figure appears before Odysseus.



Odysseus, beware!

It's Hermes, messenger of the gods!

1. Aeaea: pronounced "eye-EYE-a."