

PLAY: *The Monster in the Cave* • SKILL: Literary Elements and Devices, page 1 of 4

Back to Basics: Literary Elements and Devices

Identifying the basic elements of a literary work can help you understand it better. Use this activity to help you understand *The Monster in the Cave*. See *Scope's* "Glossary of Literary Terms" for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

Section 1: Characters

1. For the characters of Odysseus and Polyphemus, and one character of your choice: (1) decide whether the character is **major** or **minor** and (2) briefly describe the character, including his or her appearance, personality, and background; (3) decide whether the character is **static** or **dynamic** and explain why.

A. ODYSSEUS is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

B. POLYPHEMUS is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

C. is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

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2. Describe the role of the Greek Chorus. What is their purpose in the play? _____

3. Describe the role of Homer. What is his purpose in the play? _____

4. Consider the **characterization** of Odysseus.

A. What is an example of **direct characterization** of Odysseus? _____

B. Give two examples of **indirect characterization** of Odysseus. _____

5. Consider the **characterization** of Polyphemus, and give two examples of **indirect characterization** of Polyphemus. _____

Section 2: Setting

6. Where and when does the play take place? _____

7. How does the **setting** help you understand the characters' behavior? _____

Section 3: Theme

8. One **theme** of this play is that when it comes to defeating an enemy, cleverness is more valuable than strength. Explain how the play illustrates this **theme**. Include at least three details to support your answer.

Section 4: Tone and Mood

9. List at least two adjectives that describe the **tone** of the play. _____

Now explain how the author established that **tone**. Which words and details tell you how the author feels about the characters and the subject matter? _____

10. What is the **mood** of the play? Does it stay the same throughout the play, or does it change? Explain. _____

Now explain how the author established the **mood**. Which **imagery**, words, ideas, and aspects of the **setting** or **plot** caused you to feel the way you did? _____

Section 5: Plot

3 CLIMAX: Describe the moment when the problem reaches its greatest intensity. What happens to make this a turning point?

2 RISING ACTION: What happens that causes the situation to escalate, or intensify?

4 FALLING ACTION: What is the solution to the problem? How is it carried out?

1 OPENING: What is the main problem?

5 RESOLUTION: What is the ultimate outcome?