

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 \_\_\_\_\_

USES: COPY MACHINE, OPAQUE PROJECTOR, OR TRANSPARENCY MASTER FOR OVERHEAD PROJECTOR. SCHOLASTIC, INC. GRANTS SUBSCRIBERS OF SCHOLASTIC SCOPE PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS PAGE FOR USE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS. ©2012 BY SCHOLASTIC INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

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?