

### **Answers – Supplementary material for the teacher**

- 1A. Ulysses' return journey lasted for 10 years.
- 1B. Ulysses' island was Ithaca. The hero himself mentions that at some points of the epic poem.
- 1C. The epic poem consisting of 12.110 lyrics, which narrates Ulysses' adventures during his voyage from Troy back to Ithaca, is called Odyssey.
- 1D. Homer is the author of Odyssey, who composed the epic poem orally towards the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.
- 2A. Twelve ships (61-49 = 12)
- 2B. On Cicones' land, Ulysses and his crew members stole animals and wine (looting was a way of resupplying the army with the necessary goods). Cicones attacked them and a fierce battle took place. Some of the soldiers were killed, while the others embarked and set off as quickly as possible.
- 2C. Lotus is an orange type of fruit that looks like tomato. This fruit was bewitched and whoever tasted it would forget all about homeland and fellows and wanted to stay on this land forever.
- 2D. Cyclopes, as revealed in Homer's text, were oversized, one-eyed creatures. Their one eye characteristic is not mentioned in the text, but it arises from Cyclops Polyphemus' blinding, after the injury in his eye.
- 3ABCD. C-A-D-B
- 4A. Polyphemus' father was the god Poseidon and his mother was the Nymph Thoosa, daughter of Forky (son of Pontus or the Ocean). Poseidon, being the god of the sea had the trident as his symbol.
- 4B. Polyphemus' prayers to his father Poseidon had the following context. Let Ulysses not return to his homeland, but if it is inevitable for him to return, condemn him to suffer countless afflictions and reach his homeland all alone, on a stranger's ship and experience further misfortunes once he reaches his destination.
- The teacher has the role of Polyphemus. The pupils ask him/her what he asked his god – father for. Why does he have these particular requests? In this question the drama technique is employed, "the hot or interrogative chair". The teacher judges from the pupils' answers whether they have responded correctly and therefore they proceed to the next wave of questions.
- 4C. The God of the winds. Aeolus was the master of the winds.
- 4D. Ulysses' fellows assumed that the bag Aeolus gave to Ulysses was full of gold and silver. They opened it and all the winds gushed out. A terrible thunderstorm broke out, which brought Ulysses and his crew back to the island of Aeolus.

Aeolus, however, sent Ulysses away, as he realized that he was under a divine curse.

The pupils are asked to improvise a short theatrical performance related to the subject mentioned above. For example, the pupils – fellows look at Aeolus' bag bewildered, try to guess its content, they wonder whether Ulysses-pupil, who is sleeping, actually conceals something and then they proceed to their action.

5A. The pupils play in two groups. One group uses pantomime in order to make the other group understand what the Laestrygonians did to Ulysses' fellows. Using the technique of improvisation, the pupils can, for example, pretend that the Laestrygonians stone Ulysses' ships and his crew members are drowned in the sea.

5B. Sorceress Circe offered Ulysses' crew members a magic potion called kykeon and then turned them into pigs with her magic wand. (Kykeon: Mixture usually consisting of wine, grated cheese and barley flour, which was used as a strengthening batter. Circe also added honey and magic herbs.)

5C. Only Evrilochos, the head of the group that had been selected to explore the island, stayed out of Circe's palace, was not made into a pig and brought the news to Ulysses. Ulysses rushed into Circe's palace to save his fellows. On his way to the palace, Hermes provided him with a magic antidote and useful advice about how to confront Circe. In this way, not only did Circe not manage to transform him, but he also compelled her (under the threat of his sword) to bring his fellows back into their human figure. Ulysses and all his crew members were hosted on Circe's island for a whole year.

5D. Circe advised Ulysses to go to Hades in order to find the dead fortune teller Teiresias (fortune teller of the Achaeans in Troy) and ask him to show him the way back to his homeland.

6 <sup>A</sup>. At Hades, Ulysses brought offerings for the dead people (honey, milk, wine, water) and sacrificed sheep in the name of Pluto. A crowd of dead people gathered around the slaughtered animals, seeking to drink blood, which would bring back memories of the world and would enable them to speak. The fortune teller Teiresias (that was wrongly mentioned in the game as an oracle in Troy) revealed that Ulysses and his fellows would manage to reach Ithaca only if they got restrained from harming God Helios' oxen, once they disembarked on his island, Thrinakia. In case, however, they harmed the oxen, the crew members would face complete devastation and Ulysses himself would have to return back home all alone, on a ship not owned by him. And then, in his palace he would be confronted with further afflictions as the suitors were misspending his fortune, trying to make his wife, Penelope, their spouse.

6B. The pupils are asked to perform the scene of Ulysses and his fellows sailing past the Sirens' island. It is a frozen scene which is brought into life, gets into motion for a short time and then gets frozen again. The teacher can freeze the scene in order to give instructions to the pupils, in case they stray off the subject.

The pupils, using the technique of improvisation, take the role of the Sirens, who try to attract the sailors to their island through their enchanting singing, the role of Ulysses, who is attached on the ship's mast and tries desperately to undo the rope upon the hearing of the Sirens' charming song and the role of the crew members, who struggle to paddle as quickly as possible, having plugged their ears with wax.

6C. At the narrow passage between Scylla and Charybdis, on the one side of the passage there was Scylla, a monster with six heads and on the other side there was Charybdis. Charybdis swallowed the sea water and then spitted it out three times every day, causing complete destruction to the ships and leading the sailors to drowning. Ulysses chose to sail on the side of Scylla, who grabbed and ate six of his sailors.

After his sailors' death, sailing away Helios' island, Ulysses sailed past Charybdis all alone, bound on the ship's keel. Approaching her rock, just as she was about to suck up the sea water, he jumped up and had a hold on a wild fig tree above the monster. There he waited for Charybdis to spit out the water, along with a plank, on which he floated in the sea for nine whole days, before reaching Nymph Calypso's Island.

6D. Example: "What am I going to have for lunch today? My mum has cooked split peas and my grandma spinach with rice. Yuk! Between Scylla and Charybdis!"

7A. The pupils, using the technique of improvisation, present through pantomime Ulysses' starving fellows, who slaughter Helios' oxen, cook and eat them.

7B. Zeus sent a fierce storm, struck Ulysses' ship with a thunder and the crew members drowned. Ulysses was the only one to survive, grabbed as he was on the ship's keel.

7C. 2. Calypso

The Nymph Calypso is presented by Homer as the daughter of the Titan Atlas, who fought against Zeus during the battle of Titans. After his victory, Zeus, punished Atlas by obliging him to hold on his shoulders huge pillars keeping the sky and the earth apart (a 62-63 Odyssey)

7D. 7 years ( $49:7 = 7$ )

Ulysses stayed in Ogygia, Calypso's island, for 7 years, waiting for the gods to decide on his homecoming.

8A. During two meetings of the 12 Gods on Mount Olympus, goddess Athena asks - impels Zeus to see to Ulysses' return to his homeland. Zeus sends Hermes to Calypso's island to announce the God's decision, Ulysses' homecoming, presenting it as an inevitable fact, determined by fate. Besides, he advises Calypso that nobody can go against Zeus' will and power. Despite her initial negative but anticipated reaction, as a woman in love with a man that she is asked to part from, Calypso is obliged to subdue to Zeus' decision and let Ulysses go back home.

The teacher has Calypso's role. The pupils ask her why she changed her mind and let Ulysses leave her island after seven years, since she was so deeply in love with him.

For this question the drama technique "hot or interrogative chair" is used. The teacher judges from the pupils' questions whether they have responded correctly and therefore they proceed to the next wave of questions.

8B. Two pupils play Calypso and Ulysses. They improvise based on the dialogue given to them based on the dialogue of subsection 4, appendix 3 of the school book.

The girl playing Calypso struggles to persuade Ulysses not to go away, making use of the following arguments: a) She is far more beautiful than his wife, Penelope, b) He is going to face countless misfortunes once he decides to leave her island, c) She will make him immortal if he stays with her.

Ulysses, however, answering back in a gentle though honest way, says that her beauty is undoubtedly incomparable, since she is a goddess and persists in his decision to travel back home, defying all the potential difficulties and afflictions awaiting him in the sea.

8C: 4) Poseidon.

On his way back to his palace, Poseidon (he was absent from the meeting of the Gods on Mount Olympus, where Ulysses' homecoming had already been approved) noticed that Ulysses was near Ithaca and he decided to complicate his homecoming, as he was not empowered to kill him.

8D. Nausicaa

9A. Alcinous

9B. Ulysses was hosted in Alcinous' palace for two days and the king assigned his amusement to the royal musician Dimodokos. After the meal of the second day, Dimodokos sang about the deeds of the Achaeans in Troy and Ulysses was moved. It was only Alcinous who noticed that. After dinner it was Ulysses himself that asked Dimodokos to sing about the Trojan Horse. This very moment Ulysses was observably moved and it was then that king

Alcinous requested who he actually was and what he was crying for (up to this point Ulysses' identity had been successfully concealed).

9C. Two pupils play goddess Athena and Ulysses and all the other pupils help them with the improvisation. Goddess Athena notifies Ulysses of the fact that 108 suitors are accommodated in his palace, mispending his fortune and trying to make his wife, Penelope, their spouse so as to ascend his throne.

9D. Goddess Athena turned Ulysses into an old beggar and advised him not to go straight to the palace but to the hut of his loyal swineherd, Eumaeus, instead. There Athena would send his son, Telemachus, who had travelled to Pylos and Sparta intending to seek information about his father.

10A. Ulysses' son was named Telemachus.

10B. Ulysses' dog was named Argos.

10C. Eurycleia, Penelope's devoted servant and Telemachus' nurser, washed the beggar's feet, namely Ulysses', upon Penelope's order. Eurycleia recognized him during the footbath, as soon as she touched a scar on his right knee that he had suffered from a wild boar in his teens, when he had taken part in a hunting competition.

Eurycleia, the devoted servant of the palace and Telemachus' nurser was totally bemused and turned to Penelope to announce what she had just realized. Ulysses, however, adjured her not to reveal his secret to anyone. Consequently, Eurycleia, would probably have an expression of surprise and unexpected joy on her face, while Ulysses was struggling with rapid gestures to discourage her from talking to Penelope and to calm her down, so as to make sure that nobody would realize who the stranger was.

11<sup>A</sup>. Incited by goddess Athena and holding Ulysses' bow, Penelope announced an archery competition. The prize for the winner would be Penelope herself, which meant that she would get married to the one who would succeed in drawing Ulysses' bow and shooting the arrow through the holes of twelve battle axe.

11B. After the unsuccessful attempts of the suitors to draw Ulysses bow, the 'beggar' asked to try as well. The suitors were stupefied when they watched Ulysses draw the bowstring with unbelievable ease and shoot the arrow through the battle axe holes. Shortly after that, Ulysses took off the rags he was dressed in and pointed the arrow directly towards the suitors, starting with the most provocative one, who fell dead at once. It was then that the suitors realized who the "beggar" was and got horrified.

11C. One pupil has the role of Ulysses. The other pupils of the group ask him how he treated the suitors in the palace after the disclosure of his true identity. Did

he forgive them? Did he punish them with death? "Ulysses' " classmates try to find out the reasons that the hero's actions were motivated by.

For this question the drama technique of "hot or interrogative chair" is used. The teacher judges from the pupils' answers whether they have responded to the question successfully and therefore they proceed to the next wave of questions.

11D. Penelope didn't realize right away that the stranger was her husband, Ulysses. She asked her servants to remove the bed out of their spousal bedroom, so as to make it and let the stranger sleep there. This fact infuriated Ulysses, who disclosed the secret about their bed being strongly attached on the ground, a secret that only the couple shared. That was the clue which made Penelope confirm Ulysses' identity.

12ABCD. On Laertes' farms, goddess Athena, intermediated between the dead suitors' relatives, who sought revenge for their death, and Ulysses, imposing peace on the island of Ithaca and establishing king Ulysses' sovereignty.

### Bibliography

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- History, Grade C Primary School, Chapter "Odysseus' adventures" (Student's Book)
- Homeric Poems Odyssey, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade of Junior High School (Student's and Teacher's Book)