The Odyssey

Book 9: In the One-Eyed Giant's Cave

Part 1:

Imagine that it is you, and not Odysseus, that is stuck on an island with a vicious, man-eating Cyclops. You are trapped in his cave, and it is up to you to plan a means of escape to save your own life and the lives of your men. Keep in mind there is a slab of rock covering the door that you and your men cannot budge. Also, the Cyclops is both larger and stronger than any of your men, and he desperately wants you for dinner.

★ **What would you do?**
★ **How would you try and escape?**
★ **You do not have the wine that Odysseus had…What are your chances of survival?**

Part 2:

Ok, next…now imagine Polyphemus is suing Odysseus for damages incurred during the escape incident. To avoid going to court a "mediation" meeting has been set to debate the incident in question. Your group will be assigned either to debate in favour of Polyphemus or to debate in support of Odysseus. Use the information from the text to support your arguments.

You must have two to three strong arguments, supported by evidence in the text (quotations or events of plot). You will debate with an opposing group in front of the class next day.

Questions to consider:

★ **Was Odysseus trespassing?**
★ **Did Polyphemus have a responsibility to ensure the safety of his visitors?**
★ **Did Odysseus use undue force when he poked out Polyphemus' eye?**
★ **What compensation should Polyphemus get?**

Part 3: Polyphemus's Point of View

For homework you will retell the incident from book 9 from the point of view of Polyphemus.

★ **You may choose to make him sympathetic or play up his uncivilized nature. Delve into how Polyphemus might have felt or what he may have experienced during the incident that motivated his behaviour.**

★ **Due tomorrow. Typed. 250-500 words.**

★ **After this they looked at drafts in groups and picked the best ones, read the best ones aloud and co-constructed a checkbric for the class**

★ **Peer editing based on the checkbric, took home and revised and handed in good copies with checkbric**