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Warm Up

Ancient tales of heroism, love and war were called epics. Epics were often told as songs or poems. They were fantastic tales where you would always find one or more heroes battling the anger of a handful of powerful gods, but with the blessings of some other gods. Homer is the ancient poet who first told the epic poems of *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. The hero of both these epics is Odysseus.

Work in pairs. Name the heroes of these epics.

Epic	A hero of the epic
<i>Mahabharata</i>	
<i>Silappatikaram</i>	
<i>Ramayana</i>	
<i>Kalevala</i>	
<i>Shahnameh</i>	
<i>Beowulf</i>	
<i>Buddhacharita</i>	



Reading

Once upon a time, in the land of Greece, there lived a man called Odysseus. He went to fight a war in faraway Troy, leaving his wife and son behind. The war lasted for ten years and Odysseus helped Greece win the war. After that, he sailed home to Ithaca. The most powerful goddess, Athena, had blessed him, but he had angered the god of the seas, Poseidon, by killing his son Cyclops – the one-eyed giant. Poseidon promised to make it impossible for him to reach Ithaca.

Odysseus and his men sailed across the grey seas till they came to an island. It had bronze walls and the cliffs ran **sheer** up from the waters of the sea. On this island lived Aeolus, the keeper of the winds.



Odysseus and his men lived on the island of Aeolus for a month and had a merry time with his sons and daughters. They were Aeolus's much-loved guests.

One day Odysseus came up to Aeolus and said, "O my wonderful host, I must bid you goodbye. My wife and my people await me at Ithaca." Aeolus was sad that Odysseus would leave his island and go away. He gifted him a great leather bag in which he placed all the winds that he ruled, except the west wind. He tied up the mouth of the bag with a narrow leather string. Then Aeolus prayed to the west wind to blow gently and help the fleet of Odysseus reach Ithaca.

They sailed on for nine days and nine nights. The west wind blew gently making them sail without any trouble. Finally, the land of Ithaca with its woods and hills could be seen. The men and women of his land had lighted

fires to drive away wild animals that attacked their sheep. All this while, Odysseus had remained awake for all nights and all days. Now, on seeing the shores of Ithaca, he was at ease. He slept off.

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While he slept, one of his men said to the others, “Odysseus is the mightiest and the richest amongst us. What use does he have of the gift of Aeolus? It is we the poor who need it most.” And, they opened the leather bag which was next to Odysseus who was fast asleep. And lo! The winds blew out of the bag and swept across the seas. Soon, a gale made the sails of the ship go awry, and Odysseus woke up with a start. He knew what misfortune had fallen on him and his men.



He begged Aeolus to save him, but Aeolus was quite upset with him. He was angry that Odysseus had been so unwise.

“Go away!” he screamed. “You’re quite a wicked fool who did not care for the holy gifts. You deserve to suffer. Do not disturb me anymore.”

Sadder and heavier in the heart, Odysseus and his ship battled the fierce winds for six nights and six days.

On the seventh day, they reached an island from which they saw smoke coming out.

Not knowing what awaited them Odysseus sent three of his men to the hills. They came near the town from where they had seen the smoke come out. Soon there came a beautiful maiden to meet them. She said she was a princess, daughter of the king of the island, and she showed them the way to her father’s palace.

She led them into the palace, and there they found the queen of the island. She was as big as the peak of a mountain. She was quite scary and terrible to look at.

She called the king when she met these men. The king was scarier than the queen. He killed and ate humans up! He attacked the men of Odysseus. Two of Odysseus’s men were able to run away from the giant’s house and reach the harbour where their master had been waiting for them. He took out his mighty sword and cut through the hawser. Then he asked his men to row as fast as they could. Soon they were out of harm’s way. Yet, their hearts were full of sorrow as they had lost one of their friends to the giant.

Before long, they reached another island, where lived a beautiful woman with magical powers, Circe of the Golden Tresses.

For two days Odysseus and his men lay by the beach, tired and heavy with sorrow. On the third day, Odysseus took his mighty sword and his great spear and climbed up a craggy hill above the harbour. He could see the blue smoke curling up above the thick woods amongst which stood the palace of Circe. Odysseus climbed down the hill, hunted a deer for food and he and his men feasted on it to satisfy their hunger.

Then Odysseus told his men, “We do not know where we are and there is nothing around us but the sky and the sea. But, I have seen a wonderful palace not far from here. There must be some hope for us.”

He divided his men into two groups. He commanded one group and his kinsman Eurylochus commanded the other group. They then drew lots to decide who should explore the island. The lot fell to Eurylochus, and he set out with two-and-twenty men.

In the thick of the forest, Eurylochus found the palace of Circe, built of polished stone. A great empty space lay in front of the palace, and wolves, lions, and tigers, apart from other animals, roamed in it. They had been charmed and tamed by Circe herself.

While the men stood outside the palace, scared, they heard a beautiful voice singing songs from within the palace. They called out to see the woman who sang in such a magical voice.

Circe came out and opened the shining doors, and, she gently invited them to enter. All of them followed her except Eurylochus, who remembered how they had been fooled at the giant’s palace. He was sure that the woman was not true and she meant harm.

Soon, deep inside the palace, Circe gave the companions of Eurylochus and Odysseus wonderful food to eat and juice to drink. As soon as they had had that food, they were turned into dirty and horrible beasts.



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Eurylochus waited for them for a long while and then went back to the ship, tired and worried. He begged of Odysseus to help his companions, but he was too scared to accompany Odysseus in his adventure. Odysseus went out, all alone, without any fear or doubt. As he went up to the palace of Circe, Hermes, the messenger of god, came to his help. He told Odysseus all about Circe and how she had turned his men into beasts.

“But I will save you,” said Hermes, “and stop Circe from doing you harm.”

With that he gave Odysseus a strange plant, black at the root, but with a flower as white as milk. He called it moly. He told Odysseus that if he carried the moly with him, Circe would not be able to enchant him.

“When Circe touches you with her long wand,” said he, “you must draw your sword out and attack her. She can do you no harm, but you must force her to free your men.”

Then Hermes disappeared **amidst** the woods, and Odysseus went on his way to the palace of Circe.

Glossary

sheer: something that rises or falls ‘sheer’ has a very steep slope

gale: windstorm

awry: something that goes awry is disordered or messy

misfortune: bad luck

hawser: a heavy rope that is used to tie down or pull a ship

out of harm’s way: out of danger

kinsman: a man who is one’s relative

drew lots: to make a decision by choosing one of several pieces of paper with different choices written on them

admist: in the middle of



Read and Answer

1. Work in pairs and complete the chart.

Action	Who did it?
gifted a bag full of winds to Odysseus	
killed and ate humans up	
led a group of Odysseus’s men to the palace of Circe	
turned the men of Odysseus into beasts	
gifted moly to Odysseus	

2. Write if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- a) Odysseus was one of the gods who had fought in a battle at Troy.
- b) Odysseus had been cursed by Poseidon, the god of the seas.
- c) Odysseus lost a precious gift while he had been asleep.
- d) Odysseus had not entered the palace of the giants.
- e) Eurylochus was unable to save his companions from harm.
- f) Odysseus learnt from Eurylochus about how Circe troubled his companions.
- g) Odysseus and Hermes together went to the palace of Circe.



Think and Answer

1. Find evidence of these themes from the adventures of Odysseus you just read about.

Theme	Evidence
trouble due to temptation	
trouble due to greed	
bravery	

2. What do you think of Eurylochus? Discuss.



3. Work in groups. Find out what would happen to Odysseus at the palace of Circe. Write a short summary.



Word Work

Compound adjectives

In this story, Cyclops has been described as a **one-eyed** giant.

One-eyed is a two-word or compound adjective.

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Here are examples of a few more compound adjectives.

- faint-hearted man
- well-known actor
- blue-eyed boy

Read the descriptions. Write the compound adjective to describe each of the nouns. One has been done for you.

- a) two-storey house (This house has two storeys.)
- b) _____ cake (The cake has been baked well.)
- c) _____ method (This method saves time.)
- d) _____ street (Traffic moves only in one way on this street.)
- e) _____ house (The house has been furnished well.)
- f) _____ soap (This soap has been made by hand.)



Listen to this account of the meeting between Circe and Odysseus. Answer the questions that follow.

1. Complete in your own words.

By the end of the audio clip, we find out that Circe had become _____

2. Choose the best answer.

- a) Odysseus attacked Circe with his sword when
 - i) she gave her magic potion to him for drinking.
 - ii) he first saw her.
 - iii) she touched him with her magic wand and asked him to live like a beast in the dungeon.
- b) Circe was able to recognize Odysseus when he
 - i) told her about his adventures.
 - ii) was not charmed by her magic.
 - iii) called her out from outside her palace.

- c) Hermes had told Circe
- i) how she must charm Odysseus.
 - ii) about the coming of Odysseus in a black ship.
 - iii) about how brave and handsome Odysseus was.
- d) Circe promised Odysseus that she
- i) would give him a lot of wealth.
 - ii) would gift him a magic ship to take him back to Ithaca.
 - iii) would not harm him.
- e) Odysseus was unable to feast with Circe because
- i) he was scared that she would try her wicked charms on him again.
 - ii) his men were still inside the dungeon as beasts.
 - iii) he was not well.
- f) Circe and Odysseus spent
- i) a year together.
 - ii) more than a year together.
 - iii) only a few days together.
- g) Odysseus left for Ithaca when
- i) his men asked him to think about his home and people.
 - ii) he remembered his wife and children.
 - iii) he found out about the evil plans of Circe.
- h) When Odysseus left for Ithaca, Circe gave him
- i) gold and money.
 - ii) food and drink for his journey.
 - iii) advice about the dangers he might face in his journey ahead.



Sound Sense

Listen to these words. Pay attention to how the letters in colour are said.

strange messenger king sing long

The letters **ng** make /n/ + /dʒ/ sound in messenger and strange.

The letters **ng** make an /ŋ/ sound in king, sing and long.

Listen and put these words in the correct column.

danger bring challenge spring change manger

ng makes /dʒ/ sound	ng makes /ŋ/ sound

Speak Now



How are the Greek legends and their heroes similar to Indian legends and their heroes? Work in groups of four and discuss.



I think their stories are scarier and good people always don't win. And, no one seems to be always good or always bad!

I don't agree. The Pandavas went through a lot of difficulties before they got their victory.

I think our gods are kinder to our heroes.

We have man-eating giants in Indian legends too! They are called rakshashas.



Go Grammar

Degrees of adjectives

Read these sentences.

- The king was **scarier than** the queen.
- Odysseus is the **mightiest** and the **richest** amongst us.

When we compare two people or two things, we use **adjective + -er** with **than**.

The **adjective + -er** form is called the **comparative form** of adjectives.

When we compare someone or something with more than one thing, we use **adjective + -est**. The **adjective + -est** form is called the **superlative form** of adjectives.

We use **the** before superlative forms of adjectives. We do not use **than** after superlative adjectives.

The **positive degree** is used to describe things without comparison.

The spellings of some adjectives change when we add **-er** and **-est**.

- We add **-er** and **-est** to short adjectives, that is, adjectives with one or two syllables.
- For adjectives ending with vowel + consonant, we **double the last letter** and then add **-er** and **-est**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest

- For short adjectives ending with **e**, we add **-r** and **-st**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
nice	nicer	nicest

- For adjectives ending with **y**, we replace the 'y' with **-ier** and **-iest**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
costly	costlier	costliest

- We use **more** and **most** with long adjectives.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
active	more active	most active

- Some adjectives change completely in the comparative and superlative degrees.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least

What is a syllable?

Each part of a word with a vowel sound is a syllable.

Every word has at least one syllable. Adjectives with one syllable add -er and -est in their comparative and superlative forms, respectively. Adjectives with two or more syllables usually add more and most ahead of themselves in their superlative and comparative forms, respectively.

1. Write the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives given below.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
a) heavy		
b) large		
c) famous		
d) scary		
e) beautiful		
f) great		
g) intelligent		
h) much		

2. Circle the comparative or superlative forms to complete the sentences. One has been done for you.

- Which of the two buildings is older/the oldest?
- Today's test had **more difficult**/the most difficult questions than the last week's test.
- Oranges are **sweeter**/the sweetest than lemons.
- Whoever dances the **best**/good will receive a prize.
- We chose the **shortest**/shorter of the three routes suggested.
- This is the **craziest**/crazier idea I have ever had!
- Jack is the **younger**/youngest player in the team.



Write It

Imagine you are Odysseus and you have to write a letter to someone in your family in Ithaca. Study the personal letter below and write your own.



Notice how the letter is neatly divided into not more than three **paragraphs**. This keeps it crisp and to the point.

The **first paragraph** has a general introduction. →

The **second paragraph** has all the things you want to talk about. →

The **last paragraph** brings the letter to a close. We often ask the recipient to reply in this paragraph. →

We **sign off** with a short expression such as *Lots of love*, *Take care*, and *With love*. →

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Staten Island
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12 May 2018

Dear Mia,

I hope you and the family are having a wonderful time. Do you have good weather there? It is getting colder here as we move into winter. Anyway, I have some very good news for you.

I have finally invented a cell phone which does not need charging. It was a real test of my patience and determination.

I must say, I could not have achieved this without your help, of course. I wish you were here with me so we could celebrate together.

Do write back and tell me all your news. I'll be waiting for your reply.

Love,
Aryan



Topsy-turvy Land



Reading

The people walk upon their heads,
The sea is made of sand,
The children go to school by night,
In **Topsy-Turvy** Land!

The front-door step is at the back,
You're walking when you stand,
You wear your hat upon your feet,
In Topsy-Turvy Land!

And buses on the sea you'll meet,
While **pleasure** boats are planned
To travel up and down the streets
Of Topsy-Turvy Land!

You pay for what you never get,
I think it must be **grand**,
For when you go you're coming back,
In Topsy-Turvy Land!

H E Wilkinson



Glossary

topsy-turvy: upside down, reversed

pleasure: something enjoyable

grand: great



Let's Enjoy

1. Why does the poet call the place a topsy-turvy land? Tick (✓) the correct answers.

- a) You wear your hat upon your feet.
- b) You carry a hat but never wear it.
- c) You pay for what you never get.
- d) You don't pay for anything at all.
- e) When you go you're coming back.
- f) You don't go anywhere at all.
- g) Children are at school the whole day.
- h) Children go to school only at night.

2. Fill in the blanks.

In Topsy-Turvy Land:

- a) The people walk on their _____.
- b) The sea is made of _____.
- c) The front-door step is at the _____.
- d) Buses move on the _____.
- e) Boats travel down the _____.



Think and Answer

1. Would you like to go to school at night? What would you do during the day?
2. Can we walk continuously on our heads? Why not?
3. How would you enter a home in Topsy-Turvy Land?
4. How do children travel to school in Topsy-Turvy Land?
5. Which topsy-turvy happening in the poem will you enjoy the most and which will you enjoy the least?



Activity

You have come across the expression ‘topsy-turvy’. There are other such expressions that we use in the English language. Fill in the blanks using the expressions from the box.

helter-skelter

zig-zag

pitter-patter

jingle-jangle

drip drop

flitter-flutter

- a) The candle went _____ before the wind blew it out.
- b) The herd of deer drinking water at the hole ran _____ when they heard the roar of the lion.
- c) The bangles on the bride’s hands went _____ and made such sweet music.
- d) The man ran _____ to avoid the rhino.
- e) I love the _____ of rain on the window.
- f) The tap went _____ and we could hear it in the middle of the night.