Cyclopes means **plural form of Cyclops, a race of one-eyed giants with one eye in the middle of their foreheads.**

Cyclopes were **uncivilized, savage, barbaric, lawless.**

“A cavern yawning above the water” is an example of **personification, giving human characteristics to nonhuman things.**

“In the next land we found were Cyclopes … louts, without a law to bless them. In ignorance leaving the fruitage of the earth in mystery to the immortal gods, they neither plow nor sow by hand, nor till the ground, though grain – wild wheat and barley – grows untended, and wine-grapes, in clusters, ripen in heaven’s rains.” means **Cyclopes don’t know how to farm, but trust the immortal gods to provide wheat, barley, grapes, wine for them. Cyclopes are polytheistic. “Fruitage of the earth” refers to fruit that grows that can be eaten.**

“He seemed rather a shaggy mountain” is **a metaphor describing Polyphemus.**

Apollo is **god of music, poetry, prophecy, and medicine.**

Talents (line 142) in “The Cyclops” refer to **units of money in Greece.**

How was the alcohol Maron gave Odysseus diluted? **1 cup of alcohol was mixed with 20 cups of water.**

Why is the above an important fact? What does it foreshadow? **It foreshadows how this potent alcohol will be able to drunken Polyphemus.**

“Why not take these cheeses, get them stowed, come back, throw open all the pens, and make a run for it? We’ll drive the kids and lambs aboard …” means: **Let’s take the cheese to store on our ship, come back, open the gates of the sheep and rams, take the baby sheep on board, and sail away.**

How does Odysseus respond to his crewmen’s suggestion? **That sounds good, but no, we should wait to meet the host, see what he has to offer, trying to honor the Greek custom of hospitality.**

“We lit a fire, burnt an offering” because **the Greek practice was to make sacrifices to the gods.**

When the Cyclops asks Odysseus and his crew, “Strangers … who are you? And where from? What brings you here …?” Odysseus answers that **he and his men are Achaeans from Troy who have been thrown off course. (Achaea is a city.)**

“It was our luck to come here; here we stand, beholden for your help, or any gifts you give – as custom is to honor strangers. We would entreat you, great Sir, have a care for the gods’ courtesy; Zeus will avenge the unoffending guest.” **Cyclops answers that Cyclopes don’t care about Zeus or the Greek hospitality custom. Cyclopes think they are more powerful than Zeus. Don’t think you can intimidate me with talk of the gods; we are lawless. We do what we feel like.**

How does Odysseus answer the Cyclops when asked where Odysseus’ ship is? **Odysseus lies and says Poseidon, Polyphemus’ father, god of earthquakes, destroyed their ship.**

The Cyclops responds to Odysseus’ answer **by taking two of the men, beating their brains out, ripping them apart limb by limb, and then devouring them.**

“Then he … made his meal, gaping and crunching like a mountain lion …” is an example of **a simile.**

“We cried aloud, lifting our hands to Zeus, powerless,” means **Odysseus and his crew prayed to Zeus for help to defeat the Cyclopes.**

“Cyclops … lay down like a mast among his sheep” is an example of **a simile.**

“I had touched the spot when sudden fear stayed me: if I killed him we perished there as well, for we could never move his ponderous doorway slab aside.” **means I was about to stab Polyphemus when fear stopped me. If I killed Polyphemus, we would die in the cave because we couldn’t move the boulder that weighed over a ton.**

“When the young Dawn with fingertips of rose lit up the world,” is an example of **personification and metaphor, as “the young Dawn” is a metaphor for the sun, and “with fingertips” gives the sun a human characteristic.**

Odysseus prays to **Athena, goddess of wisdom, skills, and warfare. Athena loves Odysseus because of his wisdom, using his intelligence to overcome many obstacles.**

After Odysseus “pondered how to hurt [the Cyclops] worst,” **he decides to hew/sharpen a log, toughen it in the fire, hide it under a pile of sheep and goat manure, and have four men help him blind the Polyphemus.**

Prior to injuring the Cyclops until the end of the episode, **Polyphemus eats six men.**

The “weapon” Odysseus uses to weaken the Cyclops prior to blinding him is **potent or strong alcohol because alcohol is a depressant that slows down the heart and respiratory system, impairs thinking and coordination, and causes drowsiness and sleep.**

When asked Odysseus’ name, Odysseus answers, **“Nobody” which is clever because later when other Cyclopes asks Polyphems who blinded him, Polyphemus answers, “Nobody.” The Cyclopes think if nobody blinded him, the gods must have, and Polyphemus must have deserved their punishment.**

The Cyclops’ name is **Polyphemus.**

His father is **Poseidon, god of the sea, earthquakes, and horses.**

“Now Cyclops, wheezing as the pain came on him, fumbled to wrench away the great doorstone and squatted in the breach with arms thrown wide for any silly beast or man who bolted – hoping somehow I might be such a fool. But I kept thinking how to win the game: death sat there huge; how could we slip away? I drew on all my wits, and ran through tactics, reasoning as a man will for dear life, until a trick came – and it pleased me well … I tied [the Cyclops’ rams] silently together … then slung a man under each idle one to ride there safely, shielded left and right. So three sheep could convey each man. I took the woolliest ram … and hung myself under his kinky belly, pulled up tight, with fingers twisted deep in sheepskin ringlets for an iron grip. So breathing hard, we waiting until morning.” **Odysseus and his men got out of the cave when Polyphemus opened it for light and the let the sheep and goats out of the cave. Three sheep were tied together, with a man holding on to the wooly belly of the middle sheep, so when Polyphemus felt for the men, he would only feel wool.**

The Cyclops asks his woolliest, choicest ram who is the last to leave the cave, “Why, now, so far behind? Can you be grieving over your Master’s eye?” **The ram is in the back of the herd because Odysseus is weighing him down, holding on to the curly wool on the ram’s belly.**

If the Cyclops could find Odysseus who he now knows “conquered all [his] wits with wine” before blinding him, **the Cyclops says he would bash Odysseus’ brains out with his hands and against the rocks of the cave, so his brains would go all over the cave floor.**

The mistakes Odysseus makes after blinding the Cyclops are: **Because of Odysseus’ arrogance, he humiliates Polyphemus by asking him if he liked the beating the crew gave him, referring to Polyphemus as a cannibal who Zeus and the gods punished. Polyphemus then breaks a boulder off a mountain top and hurls it at the ship. When the crew tells Odysseus to keep quiet, Odysseus says it was Odysseus who blinded him.**

What had Telemus, the wizard, foretold? **Telemus had predicted that Polyphemus would lose his eye and be blinded by Odysseus. Polyphemus always assumed some giant would come against him and blind him; Polyphemus never expected a small man to blind him.**

Weird in “The Cyclops” episode means **the same as it meant in *Macbeth* for the “Wyrd or Weird Sisters” which is fate or destiny. In other words, Telemus can predict the future.**

When Polyphemus invites Odysseus back to his island, Odysseus basically answers this invitation by saying to Polyphemus**, “If I could take your life I would and take your time away, and hurl you down to hell! The god of earthquake could not heal you there.” meaning if I could kill you, I would, and send you to hell where your father couldn’t heal you.**

The Cyclops’ prayer to Poseidon “for” Odysseus is **Polyphemus wishes Odysseus dead, but if fate intends him to live to see his family in Ithaca again, let Odysseus have many years of suffering before he returns home to an awful homecoming, the only survivor of the voyage.**

After the crew get away from the Cyclopes’ island, **Odysseus uses the choicest ram to kill and offer the ram’s long thighbones to Zeus as a sacrificial offering.**

The final emotion the men experience after leaving Cyclopes’ island is **grief for the lives of their companions who were eaten by Polyphemus.**