***The Odyssey* Name:**

**Cyclopes Civilization Close Reading Date:**

The word idiots is derived from the Greek, **idiotes,** which means an individual interested only in his or her private affair, assured to be ignorant, unskilled and vulgar.

The Greeks considered the Cyclopes to be **idiotes** or savages as they lacked certain qualities of the more civilized and cultured Greek society. The Greeks considered themselves better because of these differences.

Reread the following passage, annotate and determine the six qualities the Cyclopes lack that the Greeks have according to Odysseus. Try to write them in order below.

*In the next land we found were Cyclopes,*

*giants, 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 rain.*

*Cyclopes have no muster and no meeting,*

*no consultation or old tribal ways,*

*but each one dwells in his own mountain cave*

*dealing out rough justice to wife and child,*

*indifferent to what the others do. . . .” (56-67)*

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