

Notes on illustration on facing page

Odysseus meets Nausicaa, the daughter of King Alcinous

Based on an Attic red figure neck amphora attributed to the Nausicaa painter, c. 450-440 BC, Antikensammlungen Museum and Glyptothek, Munich

A naked, wrecked Odysseus (far left) meets the daughter of King Alcinous, Nausicaa, (third from the left) and her maids at the river where they went to wash their clothes. Terrified at the sight of him, one of the girls is running away. Nausicaa would have done the same (as her posture indicates) if goddess Athene (second from left) had not encouraged her to stay and confront the stranger.

Suggested activities

This picture gives us extra information which we have not heard in the recording and which can be investigated.

Can the children recognise Athene from features they have seen in the previous illustration? What about Odysseus? How does he look different? Note that he is older and had suffered at this point in the story.

The maidens are by the river doing washing. Look to see cloth being twisted and wrung out and hanging to dry on a tree - very fortunate for Odysseus who can use the cloth to cover his nakedness.

See also notes for Episode 1.

