

Notes on illustration on facing page

Odysseus weeps to the sound of Demodocus' song

Based on L'Odyssée d'Homère gravée par Reveil d'après les compositions de John Flaxman (Paris, 1835)

While at Alcinous' palace, the bard Demodocus plays his lyre and sings about the sack of Troy and the Trojan Horse. At the sound of Demodocus' song, the hero cannot hold his tears and tries to hide them by burying his face in his cloak. When King Alcinous hears his sobs, he asks Demodocus to stop.

Suggested activities

We have been told that Demodocus "lifted his lyre to his shoulder." This illustration makes it clear that the story was sung rather than spoken. Remind the children of Paris' lyre which they have seen in the illustration **The judgement of Paris** (Episode 1).

This artist shows details of footstools and sandals. So far we have seen bare feet.

Compare the composition of this illustration with the last two. It is not from a vase and is intended to be viewed flat from one point only. The figures face and look at one another. Parts of illustrations from vases on the other hand are not seen all at once and the artist needs to create a composition that looks good from any point.

See also notes for Episode 1.

