



This is the fourth part of a story.  
Read it and then... Create it!

## The Master of the Winds

Just before nightfall, the ship reaches the island where the rest of the army is waiting. As soon as they arrive, Odysseus orders his men to haul the boat up onto the sandy shore.

After the joy of their reunion, Odysseus recounts their incredible adventures in the land of the Cyclopes.

Then the men divide up the flocks they stole from Polyphemus. An equal share for each of them. But the most beautiful ram, the one whose fleece Odysseus held so tightly and which allowed his escape, is given to him. However, the king does not keep this magnificent beast for himself. He offers it as a sacrifice to the great Zeus with his prayers. In this way, he hopes that the god will calm the anger of Poseidon, if there is any anger at all. The rest of the day, Odysseus and his men rest, eat, and drink their sweet wine.

They are saddened by the loss of some of their companions, yet happy to have escaped death. At dawn the next day, Odysseus commands his soldiers to embark.

"Off to Ithaca!" he shouts to them. Eager to return home, the men take their positions. The rowers grab their wooden oars. They strike the sea in rhythm. How they long to distance themselves from the fearsome Polyphemus!

*Take notes of the most important information from the text!*

*Your notes can be  
Mindmap  
Table  
Drawing, etc.*





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Odysseus's ships thus reach Aeolia. This floating, rocky island is surrounded by a very high bronze wall, making it easily recognizable. It is the home of Aeolus, the master of the Winds.

Aeolus rules over blizzards, whirlpools, cyclones, hurricanes, and gentle breezes. He only allows them to unleash their fury by order of Zeus. The rest of the time, he keeps them imprisoned in a cave.

Upon his arrival, Odysseus is taken to Aeolus's palace. The god lives in splendor, surrounded by his wife and his twelve children, six boys and six girls.

He welcomes the king of Ithaca and his companions with friendship. True to the laws of hospitality, he invites them to share his meal, has beds prepared for them so they can rest from their journey, and offers them to stay for a while.

Days pass. Banquets follow banquets. Delicious dishes, countless sweet treats, exquisite wines, music, charming conversations...

Aeolus wants to know all about the Greek soldiers' exploits during the Trojan War. King Odysseus willingly answers him, not omitting a single detail.



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How sweet life is on the island of Aeolia! Odysseus and his men live like this for a month. Finally, one evening, Odysseus opens his heart to the master of the Winds.

"My greatest desire," he confides, "is to return home. I long to be reunited with my wife Penelope and my son Telemachus, who must be grown now."

"How well I understand you!" reassures Aeolus. "Therefore, I will not keep you. Allow me to offer you a gift before you depart."

And what a gift!

The next day, the Greek ships are ready, provisions loaded, and the men in position.

With a leather bag in hand, Aeolus takes Odysseus aside and whispers in his ear:

"Noble king of Ithaca, accept this gift. With it, you will return to your palace more quickly."

"How is this possible?"

"Keep this secret to yourself! I have imprisoned the violent winds and storms in this bag."

# ODYSSEY



S23  
T4  
L2



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"All the winds?" asks the king, already imagining useless sails and the fatigue of his rowers.

"All the winds except one, the one that will take you directly to Ithaca. You know that I can stir up or calm the winds at will, don't you?"

Odysseus nods. He takes the bag, tightly sealed with a thick silver thread so that no breeze can escape. Then, after their final thanks and proofs of friendship, he embarks in turn.