

## Using Welty's "Circe" to Inspire the Use of Detail in Odyssey Storytelling

### Unit Goals:

Odyssey storytelling is one component on an extensive unit on Ancient Greece which includes a study of both the Iliad and the Odyssey, followed by a focus on aspects of classical Greek culture. Student begin by listening to storytellers relate the major episodes of the Iliad and the Odyssey, 1-2 per day for two weeks. After each telling the class generates list of the main characters, the sequence of events and specific images they recall, then each student creates a 6-8 cell comic strip depicting the story. After the storytelling series is complete, students choose an episode for either the Iliad or the Odyssey to learn and tell to 1st graders. For this, they begin by writing a sequence of events from their comic strip, then read/listen to several versions of the tale. Subsequently, students engage in several preparatory activities for the planning and performing their stories. This would include making lists of details/images to enhance each comic cell. I would perform Welty's "Circe" for the initial storytelling, and use it primarily to model the use of imagery to describe place and vivid sensory details.

### Lesson objectives:

In the performance of the Iliad/Odyssey retelling, students will:

- incorporate vivid sensory details
- create a sense of place using familiar and imagined place imagery
- convey accurate plot sequence
- learn their story by heart
- present the story with confidence and expression

Strategies for the use of Welty's "Circe" :

Teacher will:

- pre-teach by using an excerpt from One Writer's Beginnings to engage students in looking and listening for details/imagery
- perform Welty's "Circe" for students, who will take notes of details/imagery
- facilitate a class-generated sequence of events for the story with an accompanying list of vivid details/images
- encourage students to use similarly rich place imagery and vivid sensory details when developing their own version of an Iliad or Odyssey episode for storytelling

Assessment for objectives:

Students will

- create a 6-8 cell comic showing the sequence of event for the episode
- generate a list of possible details/imagery to use for each cell
- perform their stories for first graders with confidence and expression
- include sensory detail and imagery to enhance sense of place

convey an accurate sequence of events