

## Ulysses: Time Traveler!

Mrs. Oxborrow's sixth graders, while reading Bernard Evslin's The Adventures of Ulysses, decided to give the famous hero one extra adventure in the middle of his classic quest. Using time travel, they whisked Ulysses into more modern times and into more modern locations.

Baylie, Bridgette, and Quinn were focused on the trait of **idea development** while they wrote their drafts. Read each piece of writing, and then use the response tool below each draft to rank the writer's skills in the trait of **idea development**.

After you have filled in the three response tools, meet with a partner. Imagine Baylie, Bridgette, and Quinn are in your writer's group, and they are planning to revise their stories one more time before turning them in. What suggestions for idea development would you make, to make their awesome stories even better?

### Ulysses Hits the Slopes

by Baylie K., sixth grade writer



When Ulysses woke, he saw white stuff all around him and he was very cold. He saw a sign that said Mt. Rose. He was walking around, looking for somebody to tell him where he was. He heard a noise that sounded like a bug. When the noise got closer, he saw a really bright light. He didn't know what it was so he ran away. The noise was the ski patrol. The patrolman was on a snowmobile, and he chased Ulysses until Ulysses was so tired he couldn't run in this white stuff. When the ski patrolman got off his snowmobile, Ulysses asked him how to get to Ithica.

The ski patrolman introduced himself as Mike. Mike told Ulysses to follow him.

Ulysses asked Mike, "Why is it so cold here and what is this white powder on the ground?"

Mike looked at him and laughed. When Ulysses and Mike reached the ski lodge, Mike said, "I have some skis and extra boots. You're going to need them."

Ulysses put on the skis. When he was walking around a huge hill, he began to think. He made a plan to ski down the hill and fly off a large metal thing that he was seeing other people fly off of. He could fly over the ocean and back to Ithica. Ulysses asked Mike to turn on the lifts and when he got to the top of the hill, he was on his way back to Ithica.

Once Ulysses was over the ocean, Cyclopes grabbed him and tried to pull him into the ocean. Cyclopes wanted to please his father, but you know Ulysses always gets out of danger. He grabbed his sword and chopped off the Cyclopes' head.

Ulysses was on his way home again. He saw an island and decided he needed rest. When he got to the island, he found some food and stuff to make a fire. He slept all night woke early in the morning. He used his shirt as a sail, and he skied back to his homeland, Ithica.

### Response Tool: Where was Baylie's idea development strongest?

Rank the following five elements from 1 (strongest) to 5 (could use more work)

- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer used a balance of showing and telling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer's detail words try to paint a vivid picture in her reader's head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer's details are highly memorable, even after the writing has been put away .
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer tried out a unique style or approach to write about this topic.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer's entire story made sense to the reader.

## The Adventures of Ulysses in Hawaii

by Bridgette W., sixth grade writer



While Ulysses is on a ship back to Ithaca, he gets trapped in a humongous whirlpool that took him to the year 2007. He realized he was in Hawaii. When he woke up, he remembered that Poseidon gave him a snowboard, but he was sent to Hawaii! After he got out of the ship, he tried to find something that would help him get back to the year 1437 B.C.

Then he saw Princess Sarah. "Hello, Princess Sarah," Ulysses said. "What are you doing all the way out here in this century?"

"I am here to help you get back to your time," Sarah said.

"But how do you think I can get back if I only have a snowboard and a ship?"

"You can get back to your time with that snowboard of yours, and this is how you will get home. First, you need to go through Medusa's castle. You can't be seen by any of her guards. Once you are out of the castle, you have to hike all the way up to the top of the waterfall. This is where your snowboard comes in. You have to slide down the waterfall on your snowboard, but you can't fall off of it. Once you get to the bottom of the waterfall, you will be on your way home to Ithaca. The bottom of the waterfall is a time portal that I will have to set to 1437."

"I hope your plan will work, Sarah," Ulysses said, "and I hope I will see you in the future too."

"You will Ulysses, but I may not look the same to you because I am getting older, and you will be getting even older yourself. Now you need to go, start hiking up that mountain to the top of the waterfall. You will have to go pretty fast to the bottom if you want to go back to 1437," Sarah explained.

Ulysses started hiking up the mountain. Soon he was to the top of the humongous waterfall. He started flying to the bottom of the big waterfall. Sarah set the time portal to the year 1437, and Ulysses hit the bottom of the waterfall.

He was then on his way back to Ithaca to see his family.

### Response Tool: Where was Bridgette's idea development strongest?

Rank the following five elements from 1 (strongest) to 5 (could use more work)

- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer used a balance of showing and telling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer's detail words try to paint a vivid picture in her reader's head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer's details are highly memorable, even after the writing has been put away .
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer tried out a unique style or approach to write about this topic.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer's entire story made sense to the reader.

## Ulysses in Tokyo

By Quinn S., sixth grade writer

While Ulysses was on a boat home to Ithaca, Poseidon caught up to him and hurled him into a whirlpool. Somehow, Ulysses was alive and woke up in Tokyo, Japan! He was confused because he saw moving things called cars. He started walking across a street and was hit by a limousine and went unconscious.

A figure with big sunglasses stepped out of the car and poured water on him. Ulysses jerked awake and screamed, "Poseidon! I beg you, don't hurt my wife!"

The man took off his sunglasses dramatically and said, "No, I'm not Poseidon. I am the famous comic book artist Manga Ka, and you, sir, are perfect for the hero of my next masterpiece."

"Excuse me, sir, but what is a comic book?" Ulysses asked, confused.



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Manga was appalled that someone in Japan was clueless when it came to comic books since, in Japan, comic books are a way of life. So, he explained what a comic book was and ordered Ulysses to get into his dazzling limousine and tell him about his life.

While Ulysses was experiencing modern Japanese life, Poseidon was furious that Ulysses had survived and was brainstorming on how to eliminate him. Finally, he thought of a sinister plan of casting a gigantic tsunami on all of Japan for welcoming Ulysses with open arms.

Back with Ulysses, Manga was teaching him Japanese customs, feeding him Sushi and all about comic books. After two weeks in Tokyo, Ulysses was more homesick than ever. To solve his problem, Ulysses asked Manga if he could help him get back to his home. Unfortunately, Manga was just a humble comic book artist, but he knew a man named Mr. Roboto. Little was known about him except he was a mad scientist. No one even knew his first name!

Suddenly, a tsunami 50 kilometers big faced Japan in the distance. Poseidon didn't know how advanced humans had gotten over the millenniums, and a tsunami alarm went off. Ulysses cried, "Forgive me, Japan, for I have caused this devastating tidal wave because I have offended the Gods and Goddesses!"

No one paid attention to Ulysses though. Manga dragged the almost hysterical Ulysses off to a safe place. After Poseidon was satisfied that all of Japan had perished, he ended the tsunami and went off to bother America. The Japanese poured out of their hiding spots and continued what they were doing, for Japan is frequently hit by tsunamis.

After everything had settled down, Manga introduced Ulysses to the mysterious Mr. Roboto. Mr. Roboto looked older than time itself. Locals say he is 200 years old, but he looked like he was about to pass away at any moment. In the old man's laboratory were inventions so out of this world they were beyond even the most foreign to Ulysses who had lived more than 2000 years ago.

Poseidon was furious that Ulysses hadn't died in the devastating tsunami, so he traveled to Mount Olympus to ask his family for help. He told his brother Zeus, "Ulysses has slain my son. I tried countless times to kill him, but he just won't die!"

Zeus replied, "Ulysses has learned his lesson; he has been away from his family for 20 years! Maybe... maybe if he isn't dead yet, it wasn't meant to be. You have bothered Ulysses enough. You may pester another human." Reluctantly, Poseidon obeyed.

Luckily, Mr. Roboto owned a time machine. Ulysses would be home with his lovely wife and son by dinnertime! He would continue ruling his kingdom and die a happy life. Then it hit him: Poseidon! Sure he killed his son and many others in the Trojan War, but after all the trouble Poseidon had given him, he regretted killing the Cyclops.

Mr. Roboto started up the high tech time machine and asked Ulysses to step in. Before Ulysses was transported back to his own era, Manga handed him a book. It was a comic book. On the cover was a man looking out into the distance who looked just like Ulysses. The title was "The Odyssey" An epic tale of a hero on one crazy journey home." Ulysses thanked him and said goodbye. There was an explosion and Ulysses was gone.

Ulysses was back in Ancient Greece again, but far from home. Now, Ulysses must continue his journey home with many hardships to come.

### **Response Tool: Where was Quinn's idea development strongest?**

Rank the following five elements from 1 (strongest) to 5 (could use more work)

- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer used a balance of showing and telling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This writer's detail words try to paint a vivid picture in her reader's head.
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