

# Ulysses deriding Polyphemus- Homer's Odyssey

Joseph Mallord William  
Turner



## Some key facts

- 1829
- Mythological painting
- One of Turner's few oil paintings
- The canvas is exhibited in the National Gallery in London

# The plot of the picture

is taken from the „Odyssey“ by Homer. Odysseus returned home after the Trojan War and met cyclops Polyphemus, who was a son of Poseidon.

Polyphemus ate several sailors, but clever Odysseus burned out his only eye. Sailing away Odysseus derided the beaten enemy.

The are three mythological details  
on this pucture.

- 1) the figure of the cyclops
- 2) Apollo´s hoarses
- 3) seamaids

the cyclops silhouette is painted  
blurred (размыто) so it can be  
misinterpreted as a cloud



we can see some hoarse silhouettes. It means Apollo riding in the chariot through the sky. It embodies sunrise.



The light figures near the ship are  
seamaids, mythological figures, too.





Turner painted this picture after his visiting Italia that's why we can see the influence of the italien painters here.

e.g. masterful colour effects

light and shade effects

These effects become more important than the characters themselves.

Thank you for your attention!