

Odysseus was the brave king of the Greek island Ithaca who fought in the Trojan War. On his way home from battle, his ship sailed through a narrow sea channel, or *strait*, near Italy. Odysseus had to steer carefully between the shores of the strait to avoid getting stranded on the rocks. On one side of the strait lived the monster Scylla. She had 6 snarling dogs' heads and 12 human legs, and she devoured any sailors who passed by. On the other side of the strait lived Charybdis, a monster shaped like a large rock, who created a dangerous whirlpool by constantly swallowing and spitting out the sea. Odysseus decided to steer closer to Scylla, to avoid smashing his ship to pieces in the churning currents of Charybdis's whirlpool. Unfortunately, Scylla captured and ate six of Odysseus's shipmates, but Odysseus managed to escape with the rest of his crew and his ship intact.

Odysseus (pronounced oh-DISS-ee-yuss)

Ithaca (pronounced ITH-ih-kah)

Scylla (pronounced SIH-la)

Charybdis (pronounced kah-RIB-diss)

(fold)

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Modern situation: a student is caught holding a "cheat sheet" that was dropped by a friend, and must decide whether to tell the teacher the sheet belongs to the friend or lie and say it is hers