

Mapping It Out

With complex texts like *The Odyssey* in which many events take place, it is often challenging for struggling readers to keep track of all the events. Katie found that oral review was not enough in many cases and decided to create activities like *mapping it out* that allow students to review key events from the text using the visual arts. Exhibit 4.5 outlines the steps in creating a plot map, and the sample in Figure 4.1 was created by a ninth-grade student who was mainstreamed into Katie's English class.

Exhibit 4.5 Mapping It Out Lesson Plan

After-Reading Lesson	Mapping It Out
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Objectives	To review the plot and setting of a selected text To create a visual representation of the plot and setting
Materials	Plain paper, markers, crayons, and colored pencils
Time	30 minutes

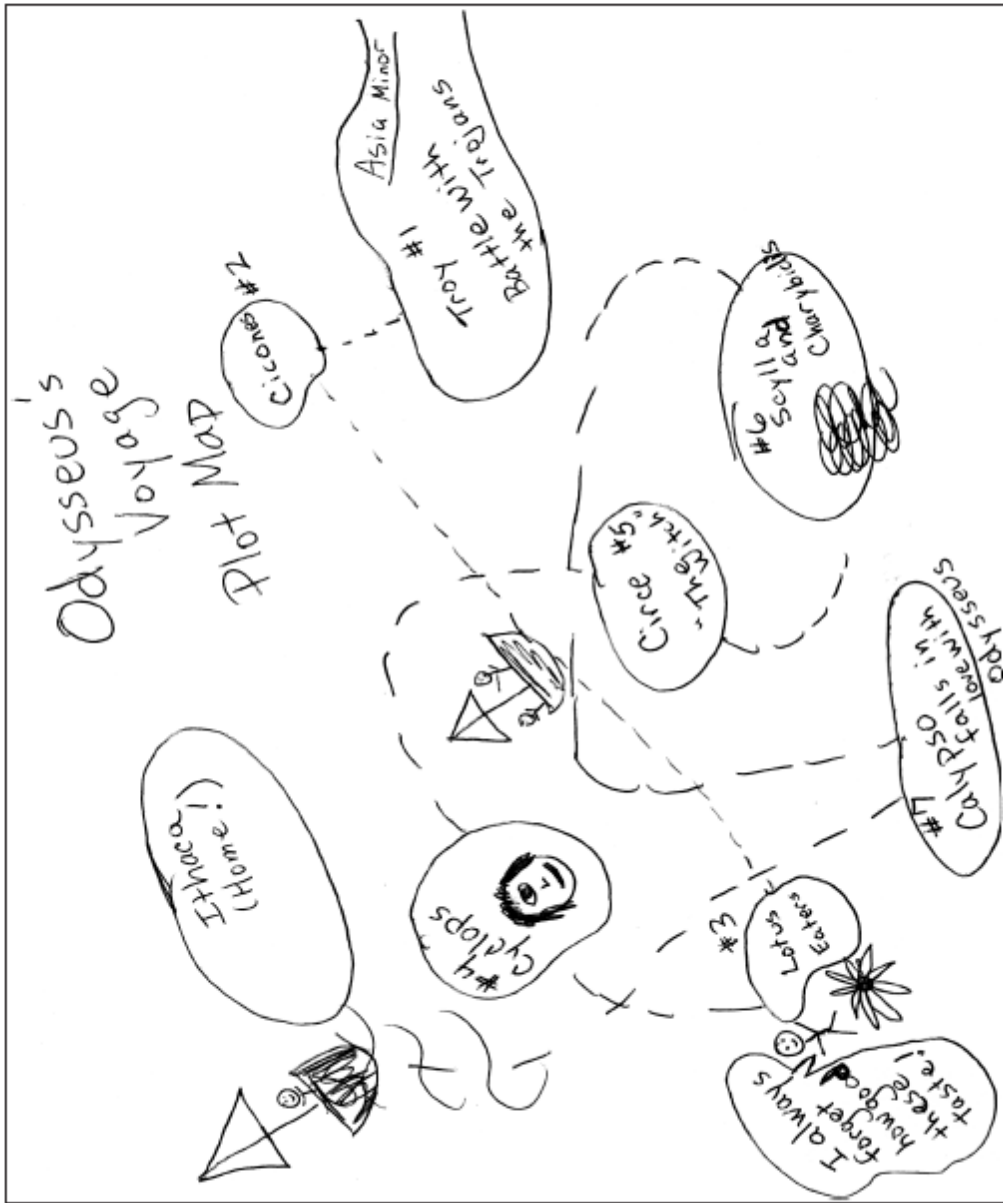
Procedure	
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Step 1	With the students, review the key plot events and settings of a selected text. This can be completed in a large classroom discussion or in small collaborative groups.
Step 2	Have the students take the key plot points and settings and create a map of the selected text. (See the sample from Homer's <i>The Odyssey</i> in Figure 4.1). The plot events should be in sequence and should reveal the students' understanding of the text.
Step 3	The students can discuss how they created their maps in small groups.

IRA/NCTE Standards	3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics). 11. Students participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical members of a variety of literacy communities.
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Figure 4.1 Sample Plot Map from *The Odyssey*



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