Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: Cyclops of Central Park by Madelyn Rosenberg, Victoria Tentler-Krylov", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2021). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1298. Entry version as of November 06, 2026.

Madelyn Rosenberg , Victoria Tentler-Krylov

Cyclops of Central Park

United States of America (2020)

TAGS: Cyclops / Cyclopes





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Cyclops of Central Park
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	worldwide
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2020
First Edition Details	Madelyn Rosenberg, *Cyclops of Central Park*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2020, 32 pp.
ISBN	9780525514701
Genre	Picture books
Target Audience	Children (3–7 years)
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Creators



Madelyn Rosenberg (Author)

Madelyn Rosenberg is an American children's book author, who previously worked as a journalist for local newspapers in Southwest Virginia, after graduating in creative writing from Boston University. In Boston she also wrote for magazines and joined the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. At present, she works on stories for children and adults, essays, articles and newsletters. Among her books are *One Small Hop*, *NYAAG*, *Take Care*, and more.

Source:

Author's website (accessed: May 24, 2021).

Bio prepared by: Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@biu.ac.il



Victoria Tentler-Krylov (Illustrator)

Victoria Tentler-Krylov is an architect as well as children's and editorial illustrator from St. Petersburg, Russia. She studied architecture and urban design at Cooper Union and Columbia University. Among her illustrated children books are *Peter Pan: A Modern Retelling*, *Just Read!*.

Source:

Author's website (accessed: May 24, 2021).

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Additional information

Summary

The frightened and anxious Cyclops lives with his 18 sheep in a cave in Central Park, New York City. One night, when he counts his sheep before going to sleep, he discovers that one sheep is missing, the adventurous Eugene. Cyclops must go out and find Eugene, who is wandering on his own in the big city. He warns his flock to stay near the cave and heads out to the city. He searches for Eugene in museums, hangs posters of him, searches in the Yankee Stadium, he even travels to the Statue of Liberty. Cyclops realizes he needs help and summons his flock. He gives them magnifying glasses and walkie-talkies and they search for Eugene together. In the end, they find him on the Cyclone roller coaster. Eugene persuades Cyclops to ride the Cyclone with the other sheep and in the end they all spend a wonderful day together. That night, Cyclops thinks of the adventures waiting for him next.

The book offers large colourful illustrations with short lines of text. Cyclops appears as brown-skinned creature, with pointy ears, and pointy hair. he wears modern clothes: knee-high pants, a striped shirt and what looks like a furry vest. He walks bare-footed.

Analysis

This is a light-hearted and heart-warming story about friendship and finding courage to face the world. Cyclops is usually connected with monstrosity and fierceness, a description influenced of course by Homer's *Odyssey*. Yet, in this story, Cyclops is kind and caring. He genuinely worries for his flock and he himself is scared of the world.

We are told that the courageous Eugene is used to saying, "There's no place like world", while Cyclops says "There's no place like cave" [location 6]. This shows their contradictory worldviews. Cyclops is afraid of the world, afraid to leave his cave, whereas Eugene is more curious and does not hesitate to take risks and explore new things. When Cyclops must leave his cave, he warns his sheep: "stay near cave... beware of grass. Beware of everything." [location 6].

Cyclops must summon all his courage when he searches for Eugene and this search leads him to enjoy the tourist attractions of the city. It is even described how he mistakes Eugene for a modern painting and is trampled by wild and rude tourists. In the world of this story,

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Cyclops is not a rarity; he fits in within the urban setting, his clothes are modern and his different appearance does not bother anyone, nor his flock (perhaps since it is NY city – many people visit there, the New Yorkers do not mind strangers etc.). Monstrosity and uncivilized manners are attributed to the Homeric Cyclops; in this story, he deliberately shuts himself from the outside word due to this fears, yet, in the end he enjoys the attractions that civilization has to offer.

In the end, the tables have turned; the exhausted Eugene now wishes to go back to the cave while Cyclops is fascinated with the world which he saw from the Cyclone. After overcoming his fear, Cyclops is able to enjoy the beauty of the world, especially with his friends, is having a good time and sees the kindness of people (not rude people this time, but people who let him and his sheep sit alone in a car in a crowded subway).

The colourful illustrations fully complement the text. For example, we see the tall Cyclops crouched in the subway car, looking tired and worried, while his flock sits happily chatting. Only at the end, when Cyclops starts to enjoy his day, is he pictured smiling and happy.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Cyclops / Cyclopes
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adventure Emotions Friendship Journeys
Addenda	The review refers to the Kindle edition (9780525514732).

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