



WRITE YOUR OWN GREEK MYTH



Name: _____ LA: _____



THE PROJECT

INTRODUCTION: One of the many lasting gifts from Ancient Greece is mythology. In a time before scientific advances, the Greeks tried to make sense of their world. They didn't understand what caused the wind, storms or the power of the tides. In an attempt to explain these natural phenomena, they told stories. These stories were powered by the actions of supernatural beings, gods and goddesses.

The Ancient Greek gods and goddesses were not perfect. In fact, they had many flaws. The Greeks imagined their gods were like humans, demonstrating human characteristics and emotions like jealousy, vengeance, and fear. These traits caused the gods to be weak and immoral, and to commit the kinds of sins that the people knew all too well. Because of this, the myths are quite entertaining to read. More importantly, the myths express beliefs about human nature that still apply today.

YOUR TASK: Write an original nature myth that explains a natural phenomenon. In addition to explaining a natural event, your myth must include the accurate depiction of one of the Olympian gods and contain elements of Greek myth. In order to do this, you must first do your research. Read several myths to study the style of Ancient Greek myth and discover the power and weaknesses of the god or goddess you have chosen.

Some Elements of Classical Greek Myth

- ⊖ Explains a natural phenomenon or creation of something
- ⊖ Depicts a struggle between good and evil characters
- ⊖ Show a relationship between mortals and the supernatural
- ⊖ Sometimes depicts a hero's quest to accomplish a great feat

PREPARATION: In class we will read and discuss several Greek myths. As we read, pay special attention to the way the Olympian gods influence each myth. Also consider what it is about the myths that make them enjoyable and, perhaps, even believable. As you work through this myth packet, be observant, so you can model the style in your own myth.

BE CREATIVE AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN WITH THIS PROJECT!

MAKE ME SMILE!



OLYMPIAN INFLUENCE

Ancient Greek myths are powered by the Greek gods. Their desires and actions were the reasons for everything that happened in myth. Their relationships and powers created the tension and excitement that make the myths fun to read. For each myth we read, take note of the influence of each Olympian god and goddess involved. For each god, write down what he/she wanted and/ or how he/ she used his/ her domain and powers to make that happen. How did the action of each god reflect his/her personality and power?

MYTH OF THE SEASONS

Demeter - _____

Hades - _____

Zeus - _____

Hermes - _____

PROMETHEUS – MYTH OF FIRE

Zeus – _____

Hephaestus – _____

PANDORA – CREATION OF FIRST WOMAN, INTRODUCTION OF EVIL

Zeus – _____

Hephaestus- _____



Aphrodite- _____

Apollo- _____

Athena – _____

Demeter- _____

Poseidon – _____

Hermes- _____

Hera- _____

NARCISSUS & ECHO- CREATION OF THE NARCISSUS AND THE ECHO

Aphrodite- _____

Hera- _____

Zeus- _____



CONSIDER MYTHS

1. Of the myths we read/discussed in class, which was your favorite and why? (*Creation, Persephone/seasons, Prometheus, Pandora, Narcissus and Echo*)
2. Who is your favorite god/goddess? What made this character appealing to you?
3. What kinds of events or information made the myths exciting to read?
4. What made them believable?



PAY ATTENTION TO NATURE

1. Make a list of natural phenomena.
2. Select a phenomenon from your list that is familiar to you and that you can observe.
3. Observe carefully. Find out as much as you can about the natural event you have chosen. What does it look like? What does it sound like? What does it smell like? What effect does it have on people and places? What are the scientific reasons for this event? Write down notes from your observations and research. Write down key words related to your topic.
4. Ask yourself, what if? Imagine and brainstorm all of the possibilities.



THE RESEARCH WORKSHEET

Choose the god or goddess who will help you tell your story. Read myths about him/her and complete the following worksheet.

Greek name of god or goddess: _____

Domain (*This means what is he/she the god/goddess of*): _____

Flaws/crimes/behaviors that cause trouble for this god or goddess

Physical description--*List ways to recognize this god or goddess, e.g. Does he/she carry something with him/her, dress a certain way, have physical characteristics that are different from the other gods and goddesses?*

Allies/Friends/Partners in Crime:

Hangouts/Where would this god be found?

Family relationships (examples: son of Zeus, wife of Hephaestus)

Symbols that represent this god/goddess:



PREWRITING

PURPOSE: What is the purpose of your myth? What natural phenomenon will your myth explain?

THEME: What message or universal truth will be shared by your myth?

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS: Briefly name and describe your main character, a mortal, (protagonist). Include specific character traits. Please include physical characteristics and personality traits.

SETTING: Give details about the setting of your story. Remember that setting includes not only time and place, but also environmental details.



Plot structure	List Details of your Story
<p>Exposition/Beginning (Who? Wants What?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the main character. • Establish the setting. • Decide what the character wants. 	
<p>Conflict/Problem--(But?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on the problem that is keeping the character from getting what he/she wants. 	
<p>Rising Action-- (So?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create events in your story that show the main character trying to solve the problem. 	
<p>Climax--event leading to the problem - (So?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an event or happening in your story that lets the reader know the problem will be (or is) solved. 	
<p>Falling Action-(Then?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write about what happens because the problem is out of the way. Give the character what he/she wants. 	
<p>Resolution/Ending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an ending that gives the reader a sense of completeness. Everything is going to be okay. Bring your story to a satisfying ending. 	



PEER REVIEW

After you write your rough draft, share it with a partner and have him/her complete the chart.

X = Great! √ = Okay, but it could be better 0 = Needs improvement

	X, √, 0	Comments
The myth captured and kept my attention from the very beginning to the end.		
One Greek god is depicted accurately.		
A natural event is explained.		
The myth is written entirely in third person.		
Specific nouns and vivid verbs are used to paint pictures with words.		
The myth flows smoothly and is very easy to understand.		
The myth makes sense.		
Proper nouns are capitalized correctly.		
There are no spelling mistakes.		
Proofreader's signature		

What I liked most about your myth was _____

Your myth could be even better if _____
