Intermediate Literature, 2018-2019

Welcome to your Intermediate classes!

Your first literature book of the 2018 school year will require you to know some background information about Greek mythology. Some of you might already know about the Greek gods, monsters, and heroes, but this will be a good review. For others this will be a new subject. Get ready for a world of strange creatures, horrible monsters, and humans who constantly have to deal with the gods' drama!

Attached is the packet of your summer reading and work assignments. It is divided into three sections.

I. The Greek Gods
II. Monster Madness
III. The Hero Perseus

All of these sections have different assignments for you to complete. This will take some time, so be sure to start early. Everything will be due on your first day of literature class. There will also be a test during the first days of your return and most importantly, a writing assignment that will be used to assess your placement and writing ability, so please make sure you have completed the work and are ready to discuss it as soon as you return to Idyllwild Arts Academy.

If you have any questions I am available by email all summer and will be happy to help. Enjoy your vacation!

Maygen Sandrini
ESL Faculty
msandrini@idyllwildarts.org
Section I
The Greek Gods

After reading the following section complete the character chart. Fill in the Greek name of the god or goddess, their job, their special animal, and the symbol or object they are associated with. You might have to do some outside research or look more closely at the pictures to find all the information. Two will not have animals.

Olympus

Mount Olympus is a real mountain in the north of Greece. In ancient times it became associated less and less with an actual mountain and more with an imaginary place high above earth where the gods lived. Many gods had other places they ruled, but this was their main home and meeting place. Stories about Olympus say the gates were made of clouds and guarded by four goddesses, the Seasons. The gods didn’t eat food, but drank a magical drink called nectar that kept them immortal.

There were 14 main gods who lived on Olympus, and so were called Olympians. The most powerful god was named Zeus, and he was in charge of the rest. The other gods were either his family or his children. You will read about each one in the following pages.
Later, the Romans decided they liked the Greek gods, and so adopted them as their own. You will notice that each god has two names, one Greek, the other Roman. For this class you will only need to know the god’s Greek name, which is the name on the top left of your sheets that are attached.

The Titans

The Titans, also known as the elder gods, ruled the earth before the Olympians. The ruler of the Titans was named Cronus. Cronus liked to eat his children to make sure they didn’t take over his kingdom. His wife, Rhea, got tired of this, and fed him a rock instead of his child, Zeus. Zeus grew up and challenged Cronus. Most of the Titans fought with Cronus against Zeus and his brothers. The Titans lost and were punished by Zeus by being sent to live in a place called Tartarus.
Animals and Symbols
Each god and goddess had a special animal and symbol associated with him or her. Here is a chart of animals to help you remember them.

Hades' animal was fictitious (meaning not real) and was named Cerberus. He was a three-headed dog who guarded the entrance to the underworld.

Hestia and Demeter didn’t have animals, but their symbols of flame and wheat reflected their powers as goddesses.
Zeus, the king of the gods, lived on Mt. Olympus with his wife, Hera. He was the most powerful of all the Olympians and ruled both heaven and earth. He controlled the movements of the sun and moon and turned summer into fall and winter into spring. When angered, he hurled thunderbolts down on the earth. Despite his temper, Zeus was the wisest and fairest of all the immortals who lived on Mt. Olympus. His special messenger was the eagle. The Romans had a similar god. They called him Jupiter.
Hera was the wife of Zeus and the protector of marriage and women. Her name means "Splendor of Heaven" or "The Lady." Women everywhere worshiped Hera. Her help was especially important during childbirth. Her husband, Zeus, spent a lot of time with other women, which made Hera jealous. She spent much of her time trying to destroy Zeus and punish his lady friends. Hera wore golden sandals, sat on a golden throne, and rode in a golden chariot. She kept a peacock as a pet. The Romans had their own name for the wife of Jupiter. It was Juno.
Poseidon was the ruler of the sea, second in power only to his brother Zeus. He unleashed the fury of the sea on those who angered him. He was married to Amphitrite, but like Zeus, he fell in love with many other women. His place was at the bottom of the sea, but he went to Mt. Olympus whenever he wished. His symbol of power was the trident, a three-pronged spear. Poseidon created the horse and is the patron of horse races. His own horses had brass hooves and golden manes. The sea became smooth when they pulled his chariot over it. The Romans gave the name Neptune to their sea god.
Hades was the ruler of the Lower World and the god of wealth. The gate to the Lower World was guarded by Cerberus, the 3-headed dog. Before entering the Lower World, the dead were ferried across the River Styx, which separated the Lower World from the rest of the universe. Hades owned all of the wealth that came out of the ground: gold, silver, gems. Zeus was his brother, and Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, was his queen. Hades drove a black chariot pulled by six black horses. The Romans called him Pluto.
Hephaestus was the son of Zeus and Hera. He was so ugly when he was born, Hera threw him off Mt Olympus and he became lame in one leg. Zeus made him the Blacksmith God, creating weapons and metalworking, and gave him a forge inside Mt Aetna. He is also God of Fire, so fire, an anvil, and the hammer are some of Hephaestus’ symbols. Another is a bird called a quail (which waddles when it walks). He is married to Aphrodite and the Romans call him Vulcan.
Hermes was the messenger of the Olympians and the special herald of Zeus, his father. He could fly and was as swift as the wind. He wore wings on his helmet and sandals. He had many tasks to perform, including watching over travelers and leading the dead to the Lower World. He carried a caduceus (wand) decorated with twining snakes. Hermes sang with a sweet, strong voice, and he played the flute and the lyre. The Romans called him Mercury after they made him part of their mythology.
Hestia was best known for her pure and simple life. She was one of Zeus' sisters and was said to be the only major goddess who did not marry and have children. On Mount Olympus she preferred a plain, wooden throne and the color brown. Hestia was considered the goddess of the hearth and home, with her major symbol being the hearth fire (lit fireplace). In Roman myth, she was called Vesta.
Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty. Her name means “Born of the Foam” because legend says that she rose up from the sea foam before making her way to Mount Olympus. Aphrodite wore a magic belt that made men fall in love with her. She was happiest in a garden with flowers all around. Aphrodite’s husband was Hephaestus, god of the forge, and Eros was her son. Her animal companions—the dove, dolphin, and swan—were with her constantly. The Romans adopted her into their mythology and called her Venus.
Ares was dedicated to war and cruelty, and he joined in wars on earth whenever he could. Sometimes he even tried to start wars among people who wanted to live in peace, although he did not always succeed. He was the son of Zeus and Hera, but they detested his hatefulness and violence. Ares was a grim warrior who carried a shield and dagger. His sons were named Terror, Dread, Panic, and Fear. Even before the Romans had any contact with Greece, they had a similar war god. They called him Mars.
Apollo was a fearsome warrior who, unlike Ares, fought only when necessary. He represented the Greek ideal of a good-hearted, handsome youth. He could fire an arrow into a dragon one minute and play a sweet melody on his golden lyre the next. Apollo healed the sick and spread happiness wherever he went with his beautiful poetry. During the day, he ruled the sun, and once a year, Apollo brought the seasons of spring and summer. Greeks in the city of Delphi were especially devoted to Apollo. They built a grand temple in his name and believed that he spoke to them through the voice of a priestess.
Artemis was the goddess of hunting and the moon. Her many symbols included a stag, bow and arrow, and a crescent moon. She and her twin bother Apollo were known as the Twins of Light. She can also be called Phoebe, which means "bright" or "radiant". Artemis is the protector of single women and the various creatures of the forest. The Romans adopted her and called her Diana.
Athena was a warrior who hated war. She fought only when she had to defend the forces of good in the world. Athena's magic shield turned her enemies to stone, and she never lost a battle. She sprang fully grown from the head of Zeus, holding a spear and bellowing a war cry. She was Zeus' favorite child and often he would let her control the lightning and storms. As fearsome as Athena was, she loved wisdom and peace more than anything else. She encouraged learning in the fields of mathematics and agriculture. She also created the olive tree, which continues today to be a symbol of peace. The Romans worshiped a similar goddess whom they called Minerva.
Demeter was the goddess who watched over the sowing and reaping of grain and agriculture in general. The Greeks believed she made the earth fertile so crops would grow, flowers would bloom, and fruit would ripen. Demeter is symbolized by sheaves of wheat. She was the sister of Zeus. Her daughter, Persephone, was the queen of Hades. The Romans called her Ceres.
Dionysus was the Greek god of wine and revelry (partying). But he also promoted the law, civilization, and peace. He ruled animal life and vegetation. He was a son of Zeus and was married to Ariadne. Dionysus is often pictured with vine leaves on his head and sometimes riding on a tiger. He is usually cheerful and friendly. The Romans adopted Dionysus into their mythology and called him Bacchus.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GREEK NAME</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>ANIMAL</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section II – Monster Madness

Read the attached section and follow the instructions at the end to create your own mythological creature using the Greek monsters as your inspiration. Your monster can be funny or serious. It's up to you!

Make sure to include complete sentences about the following as well as your drawing:

Name – A creative name that reflects the creature’s characteristics

Origin – How was your monster born or created?

Personality – How does it behave? What are its main traits?

Powers – What special powers does this creature have that makes it scary or dangerous?
Monster Madness

The ancient Greeks often used monsters in their stories to warn of the dangers that lurked beyond their homes. One such monster was the Minotaur, a half-man, half-bull creature that was imprisoned in the labyrinth under the palace of King Minos on the island of Crete. The Minotaur ate human flesh. Every nine years, fourteen young people were sent into the labyrinth to be sacrificed to the Minotaur. The labyrinth was dark and confusing and had many dead ends. No one who entered ever returned until Theseus, the brave prince of Athens, was able to kill the Minotaur and escape from the labyrinth.

Medusa was originally a mortal Gorgon with beautiful hair. However, she was boastful and bragged that her hair was more beautiful than that of the goddess Athena. Athena punished Medusa by changing her into a horrifying, snake-haired creature that would turn anyone who looked at her to stone. Medusa's punishment, like that of many other mortals in Greek mythology, resulted from her disrespect to the gods.

The sphinx was a creature with the head, shoulders, and chest of a woman. She had the body and claws of a lion, and the wings of a huge bird. The sphinx strangled anyone who could not answer her riddle. This monster perched on the cliffs above the road to Thebes until a prince answered her riddle, then she killed herself.

The Chimaera was a terrifying creature that was half lion and half mountain goat with a snake's tail. It breathed fire, and its skin was so tough that it could not be pierced. The hero Bellerophon of Corinth killed this creature.
Monster Madness (continued)

The Hydra proved to be one of Hercules' greatest challenges. This multi-headed reptile could regrow two heads as fast as one could be cut off. With its fangs, poisonous tongue, and sharp claws, the Hydra was finally killed when Hercules cut off the first eight heads, sealed each cut, and cut off and buried the ninth immortal head.

Every sailor knew that the horrible creature Scylla lurked in the Strait of Messina. With the head and torso of a woman and the fins and tail of a fish, Scylla's waist sprouted six wolf heads that barked at and devoured any sailors who passed by. Her equally frightening companion was Charybdis, the gigantic whirlpool. If sailors tried to steer a course to escape from Scylla, their ship was usually swallowed by the ever-hungry Charybdis.

Invent a mythological creature of your own. Give it a name, draw a picture of it in the box, and describe its origin, personality, and powers.

Name: ________________________________

Origin: ________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Personality: ________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Powers: ________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

© 1998 MCDONALD PUBLISHING CO. GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY
SECTION III – The Hero Perseus

Read the attached section and complete the assignment at the end to create your own Greek-style hero who can fight and defeat the monster you created in section II, Monster Madness. Make sure your hero is the perfect person to defeat your monster.

Include a picture and the following:

Name – A Greek-sounding name that reflects your hero’s characteristics

Origin – How was your hero born or created? Where did your hero grow up and how did your hero know it was their job to become a hero?

Personality – How does your hero behave? What are some of their main traits?

Powers – What special powers does your hero have that makes them the perfect person to defeat your monster?