

WRITING YOUR OWN ORIGINAL MYTH

Now that we've studied the Greek myths and you've made your own booklets, it's time to write your own myth. First, a brief review to remind you of important elements of a myth:

- The oldest stories we know are called myths.
- Myths have at least two purposes:
 - 1) to explain the unexplainable
 - 2) to try to understand deep philosophical issues (such as why there is evil in the world or why people fall in love).



One type of story we haven't studied about is the hero story. These stories can be about full mortals or demi-gods (half mortal/half god). These heroes are often charged with doing away with all the monsters in the world.

Certain qualities set the hero apart from ordinary people. He or she is:

- ◆ strong
- ◆ brave
- ◆ clever
- ◆ determined
- ◆ an effective leader
- ◆ concerned for his or her followers' welfare
- ◆ merciful to his/her followers
- ◆ merciless to his/her enemies.

Every hero possesses all of these traits to a degree, but each hero is distinguished by one special quality. For example, Heracles (Roman name Hercules) has incredible strength and performs remarkable superhuman feats of strength.

Sometimes gods and goddesses become jealous of or angry with these heroes and harass them by inflicting impossible situations on them or sending difficult challenges their way.

Your job now is to dream up and write your own myth. You need to include some of the gods, goddesses, or other characters we have already studied. You can also include characters of your own creation.

Before you start writing you need to make some decisions about the following categories. You might decide you want to create a web or make some other graphic organizer of your own to organize your thoughts, but you are not required to do so. However, you do need to answer the following questions before you begin writing.

What is the purpose of your myth? (Check all that apply.)

To explain the unexplainable

To understand deep philosophical issues (the issue is _____)

To tell a hero tale

Who will your characters be? (Seriously think about limiting the number of characters you have. Too many characters = not enough development of each character and much confusion for the reader.)

Gods/Goddesses:

Other characters from the myths we've studied:

Characters of my own creation:

What is the setting of your myth? Setting includes time and place.

What conflict will occur in your myth?

What are the major happenings in your plot?

What will be the resolution to the conflict? (How will the conflict end?)

Brief description of each character: (You don't need to have five characters. I'm not sure how many characters you will have!)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Other notes: