

Greek Myths - Evaluate

Name: _____

Good readers know how to evaluate, and make judgements based off of deeper level thoughts. Here are several evaluation questions:

The Beginning of Everything

1. How does the relationship between Gaea (Earth) and Uranus (Sky) reflect the balance of power in nature?
2. Why do you think Uranus feared his children enough to imprison them? Was his fear justified?
3. How does the story explain the origin of the world and the gods? What does it suggest about creation?
4. What might this myth be trying to say about family dynamics, especially between parents and children?
5. What does the conflict between Gaea and Uranus symbolize in terms of change and growth?
6. How do you interpret the role of Cronus in overthrowing Uranus? Is it an act of justice, rebellion, or something else?
7. In what ways can this myth be seen as a metaphor for the natural cycles of life and death?
8. How does this story relate to the theme of power being passed from one generation to the next?
9. What lessons can we learn about fear, control, and freedom from this myth?
10. How might this creation story influence the way ancient Greeks viewed their world and their gods?

War with the Titans

1. Was the rebellion of the Olympian gods against the Titans justified? Why or why not?
2. How does the conflict between the Titans and Olympians symbolize the struggle between old and new powers?
3. What qualities made the Olympians victorious over the Titans?
4. Could the Titans have avoided defeat if they had acted differently? How?
5. What does this myth say about the idea of justice when it comes to power struggles?
6. How does the imprisonment of the Titans reflect on the themes of punishment and mercy?
7. What lessons about leadership and rebellion can we learn from the Titanomachy?
8. How might the world have been different if the Titans had won the war?
9. What role do you think Zeus's leadership played in the outcome of the war?
10. How can this ancient story be related to modern conflicts between generations or ruling groups?

Prometheus and Epimetheus

1. Why do you think Prometheus chose to help humans even though it angered the gods? What does this say about his character?
2. How does Epimetheus's role in giving gifts to animals but forgetting humans affect the outcome of the story? What does this suggest about foresight and hindsight?
3. What does the story reveal about the relationship between humans and the gods in Greek mythology?
4. How does Prometheus's punishment reflect the consequences of challenging authority? Is it fair or unjust?
5. In what ways does the myth explain human qualities such as intelligence, creativity, and suffering?
6. What lessons can we learn from the contrast between Prometheus's foresight and Epimetheus's lack of it?
7. How does the story reflect ideas about sacrifice and responsibility?
8. What might the fire symbolize in the myth, and why is it so important to humans?
9. How does this myth explain the balance between progress and punishment?
10. How do Prometheus's actions shape the view of heroism and rebellion in mythology?

Olympian Family

1. How do the personalities and conflicts among the Olympian gods reflect human nature and family dynamics?
2. Why do you think the ancient Greeks gave their gods such human-like flaws and emotions? What purpose might this serve?
3. How do the relationships between the Olympian gods influence the world of humans, according to the story?
4. What does the story of the Olympian family reveal about power and responsibility?
5. In what ways do the gods' actions both help and harm humans? What does this suggest about the nature of divine intervention?
6. How might the story of the Olympian family explain natural events or human experiences?
7. What lessons can be drawn from the rivalries and alliances among the gods?
8. How does the story show the importance of respect and fear in relationships between mortals and gods?
9. What role does Zeus play in maintaining order among the gods, and what challenges does he face?
10. How does the story of the Olympian family help us understand ancient Greek values and beliefs?

Daphne and Apollo

1. Do you think Apollo was justified in pursuing Daphne? Why or why not?
2. How does Daphne's transformation challenge our ideas of freedom and love?
3. What does the story suggest about respecting someone's wishes?
4. How would you feel if you were Daphne? What choices would you want to have?
5. Why do you think the laurel became a symbol of victory after Daphne turned into a tree?
6. Can love ever be forced or demanded? What does this myth say about that?
7. How do the actions of the gods affect mortals in this story? Is this fair?
8. What might be the consequences if Apollo had listened to Daphne's feelings instead of chasing her?
9. How does the story explore the conflict between personal desires and external forces?
10. In what ways can this myth be applied to modern ideas about consent and autonomy?

Arachne and Athena

1. Was Arachne's pride a flaw or a natural confidence in her skill?
2. How does this story address the balance between talent and humility?
3. Do you think Athena's punishment was fair or too harsh? Explain your reasoning.
4. What message does the myth send about respecting authority or tradition?
5. How would you react if you were Arachne after Athena destroyed your tapestry?
6. Is it right to mock those in power, like Arachne's tapestry did? Why or why not?
7. What does the transformation of Arachne into a spider symbolize?
8. How might this story influence the way we think about competition and challenges?
9. What role do you think the gods play in encouraging or punishing human creativity?
10. How can this myth be used to discuss the dangers of arrogance in real life?

King Midas

1. Was King Midas's wish selfish or understandable? Why?
2. How does this story illustrate the idea that "money can't buy happiness"?
3. Do you think Dionysus was kind to grant Midas's wish even after warning him?
4. How would you feel if you were Midas after realizing his gift was a curse?
5. What does the myth suggest about the consequences of greed?
6. How can Midas's experience teach us about valuing family and love over wealth?
7. Do you believe Midas truly changed by the end of the story? Why or why not?
8. How might this myth apply to modern society's obsession with wealth?
9. What could Midas have wished for instead to be truly happy?
10. In what ways does the story warn us about being careful what we wish for?

Echo and Narcissus

1. Who do you feel more sympathy for: Echo or Narcissus? Why?
2. How does the myth explore the consequences of selfishness and unrequited love?
3. What does Echo's punishment say about the power of speech and communication?
4. Is Narcissus's fate a fair punishment for his pride? Explain your view.
5. How does this story relate to the idea of self-love versus selfishness?
6. What lessons can we learn about empathy and understanding others from this myth?
7. How do Echo and Narcissus represent two very different kinds of loneliness?
8. Could Narcissus have been saved from his fate? If yes, how?
9. What do you think this myth says about the dangers of ignoring others' feelings?
10. How can this story be used to discuss the importance of balance between self-care and caring for others?

Daedalus and Icarus

1. Was Daedalus responsible for Icarus's fall? Why or why not?
2. How does this myth explore the theme of freedom versus safety?
3. What do you think Icarus's flight symbolizes about human ambition?
4. Could Icarus's death have been prevented? How?
5. What lessons does the story teach about listening to advice?
6. How might the story change if Daedalus had also flown too close to the sun?
7. What does this myth suggest about the consequences of pride and recklessness?
8. How can this story apply to risks people take in real life?
9. What role does creativity play in both the freedom and danger in the story?
10. How would you balance ambition and caution in your own life after hearing this myth?

The Sirens and Odysseus

1. Why do you think Odysseus wanted to hear the Sirens' song despite the danger?
2. How does this story illustrate the theme of curiosity versus caution?
3. What can we learn about leadership from Odysseus's decision to be tied to the mast?
4. Why are the Sirens' songs so dangerous? What do they symbolize?
5. How might the story change if Odysseus had freed himself from the ropes?
6. What does this myth suggest about resisting temptation?
7. How does Odysseus's plan show the importance of teamwork and trust?
8. Why do you think the Sirens are often described differently in various myths?
9. How could this story be applied to challenges people face today with temptations?
10. What qualities make Odysseus a successful hero in this part of his journey?

Medusa

1. Do you think Medusa was a victim or a villain? Why?
2. How does the story reflect the themes of beauty and transformation?
3. Was Athena's punishment of Medusa fair? Explain your thoughts.
4. What does Medusa's story say about how society treats those who are different?
5. How might Medusa's story be different if she had not been punished?
6. What do you think the birth of Pegasus and Chrysaor symbolize after Medusa's death?
7. How does Perseus's quest raise questions about heroism and violence?
8. What lessons can we learn about justice and mercy from this myth?
9. How does the story explore the consequences of jealousy and anger among gods?
10. How can Medusa's myth be interpreted as a metaphor for misunderstood people in real life?

King Sisyphus

1. Why do you think Sisyphus continued to trick the gods despite the risks?
2. What does Sisyphus's punishment say about the nature of consequences?
3. How does the myth explore the ideas of fate and free will?
4. Do you believe Sisyphus's punishment is just or too cruel? Why?
5. How might Sisyphus's story inspire people facing difficult or repetitive tasks?
6. What does the myth suggest about honesty and the cost of deceit?
7. How does Sisyphus's cleverness both help and harm him?
8. Why do you think the story of Sisyphus has lasted for so long?
9. How can the phrase "like Sisyphus" be applied to modern life?
10. What can this myth teach us about accepting responsibility for our actions?

Overall - Greek Myths

1. How do the myths portray the consequences of pride and arrogance? Can you think of examples where this theme appears?
2. What do these stories suggest about the balance between human freedom and the power of fate or the gods?
3. How is the idea of punishment used in these myths? Do you think the punishments are fair or too harsh? Why?
4. In what ways do love and desire drive the actions of gods and mortals, and what lessons do these stories teach about love?
5. How do the myths explore the relationship between humans and the divine? Are the gods shown as helpers, villains, or something more complex?
6. What role does cleverness or intelligence play in these stories? Are the clever characters always rewarded? Why or why not?
7. How do these myths explain natural phenomena or human experiences, and why might ancient people have found these explanations meaningful?
8. What can these myths teach us about the importance of humility and respect for others, including the gods?
9. How do the stories deal with the theme of transformation? What do physical changes in characters symbolize?
10. What do these myths reveal about ancient Greek values, such as honor, bravery, and wisdom? Are these values still relevant today?