

# INGRI AND EDGAR PARIN D'AULAIRE'S BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

INGRI AND EDGAR D'AULAIRE

# LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

## SYNOPSIS

Edgar and Ingri D'Aulaire divide their book of Greek myths into accessible units. The short opening segment introduces the ancient Greek concept of deity with an account of the Titan and Olympian deities' births. The authors move directly to a 54-page section detailing the thirteen major Olympian gods who make up Zeus's family. They single out memorable stories, particularly the deeds of Orion, Arachne's transformation into a spider, and Persephone's abduction, while explaining the powers and function of each Olympian god.

The second major section narrates the lesser, but no less influential myths of the minor gods. Pertinent to the Greek concept of the universe is information about the three fates, Prometheus's part in creation and his theft of fire from heaven, Pandora's release of evils into the world, and Deucalion and the flood. Other key stories are Phaëthon's erratic tour of the heavens in Helios's chariot, Echo's poignant love for Narcissus, the upbringing of Asclepius, and the account of Orpheus, Calliope's talented son, and his ill-fated love for his bride, Euridice.

The largest division of the book, which describes Zeus's earthly descendants, features tales of courage and daring, particularly the flights of Bellerophon on his winged steed, Pegasus; Heracles's twelve labors; Theseus's fight with the Minotaur and the related story of Daedalus's invention of wings; Oedipus's unfortunate life after he solves the riddle of the Sphinx; Jason's search for the Golden Fleece; and the Greeks' long war with the Trojans after Paris steals Helen.

The book comes to a fitting close with the end of Olympian rule. As the D'Aulaires phrase it: "Everything must come to an end, and so did the rule of Zeus and the other Olympian gods." The index that accompanies the book enables students to locate individual characters and stories not singled out in the table of contents and also helps them to check their spelling of Greek and Roman character and place names.

Several pages within the book clarify relationships through illustration, especially p. 2, the evolution of Titan and Olympian deities from Cronus; p. 8, an annotated map showing Mount Olympus, Greece, Troy, the Aegean and Ionian Seas, and the islands of Naxos, Crete, Lesbos, Chios, and Lemnos; p. 75, a symbolic representation of Pandora's part in human misery; pp. 106-107, a genealogy of traditional Greek heroes; and pp. 186-187, a depiction of the Olympian gods with both their Roman and Greek names.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The meeting of Ingri Maartenson (1904-1980) with Edgar Parin (1898-1986) in Munich, Germany, was auspicious, for

their collaboration spawned a forty-year career of writing and illustrating children's books. Edgar, who wrote under the name D'Aulaire, his mother's maiden name, was born in Switzerland and educated in Munich, Florence, and Paris—world centers of art training. The son of a prominent portrait artist, he illustrated books and painted frescoes before coming to New York in 1929. The D'Aulaires, parents of two children, made their home in Wilton, Connecticut, and Royalton, Vermont.

Edgar and Ingri, a native of Kongsberg, Norway, who studied in Oslo and Paris, began a business featuring hand-drawn color lithography. Best known for their second work, *Ola*, published in 1932, the D'Aulaires established themselves as biographers with a successful series of American figures, including *George Washington* (1936), *Abraham Lincoln* (1939), *Pocahontas* (1946), *Benjamin Franklin* (1950), *Buffalo Bill* (1952), and *Columbus* (1955). Meticulous in setting and detail, the D'Aulaires spent time at historical settings such as Mount Vernon and the American prairie to capture the feeling of location, flora, and fauna.

The D'Aulaires' output covers a broad span of subject matter. They published *The Magic Rug* (1931), *Ola and Blakken* (1933), *Line, Sine, Trine* (1933), *The Conquest of the Atlantic* (1933), *The Lord's Prayer* (1934), *Children of the Northlights* (1935), *Animals Everywhere* (1940), *Leif the Lucky* (1941), *The Star Spangled Banner* (1942), *Don't Count Your Chickens* (1943), *Wings for Per* (1944), *Two Big* (1945), *Foxie* (1949), *The Two Cars* (1955), *The Magic Meadow* (1958), *Norse Gods and Giants* (1967), *East of the Sun and West of the Moon* (1969), and *D'Aulaire's Trolls* (1972).

## CRITIC'S CORNER

The D'Aulaires won a Caldecott Award for *Abraham Lincoln* in 1939 and the Catholic Library Association Regina Medal for their contributions to children's literature. Their books have been translated into seven languages as well as Braille.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To define myth
2. To impart Greek concepts, such as the idea of fate
3. To relate famous stories
4. To recognize great heroes
5. To compare Greek myths with other familiar tales and legends
6. To explain genealogy

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

7. To comprehend cause and effect
8. To identify supernatural influences
9. To connect myths with natural phenomena, such as constellations
10. To respond to individual stories creatively and spontaneously
11. To develop vocabulary

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To enumerate the twelve labors of Hercules
2. To identify the purpose of Jason's quest for the Golden Fleece
3. To learn the difference between Titan and Olympian deities
4. To become familiar with the Greek Underworld
5. To discuss the sufferings of Daedalus, Bellerophon, Pandora, Phaëthon, Midas, and other tragic figures
6. To comprehend Oedipus's crime and subsequent punishment
7. To utilize the index in locating individual myths
8. To describe monsters and unusual creatures, such as the sphinx, satyrs, centaurs, cyclopes, the chimera, Cerberus, and nymphs

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this play. Page numbers are provided so that you can re-read the passages from which the item is taken.

1. The gods themselves could not die, for divine ichor flowed in their veins instead of blood. (p. 23)  
*(The gods appear to have mortal, human bodies. The major difference in gods and men is the fact that the gods, even though their veins are filled with watery fluid which mimics human blood, cannot die. This anthropomorphism allows the Greek gods to wander the earth and interact with human beings, often to the detriment of mortals. One god, Dionysus, performs good deeds during his tenure on earth. For more information about Dionysus's actions on earth, refer to pp. 64-69.)*
2. All the gods loved the smell of the burnt offerings; it spiced their daily food of ambrosia and nectar. (p. 72)  
*(Another significant difference between mortals and immortals is the fact that Greek gods ate ambrosia, a food whose name means "immortal," and nectar, a drink whose name means "overcoming death." To relieve the boredom of this staple diet, the gods looked forward to human offerings of meat, which*

*was burned on an altar so that fumes would float up to Olympus and please them.)*

3. When at last Perseus and Andromeda died, Zeus put them, too, in the sky as constellations. (p. 122)  
*(Many identifiable star clusters are named for Greek myths because the constant pattern of the stars brings to mind a particular figure, such as the archer or Sagittarius; the big and little bears, Ursa Major and Minor, and the winged horse, Pegasus.)*
4. When an oracle told him that he would die by the hand of his daughter's son, he put Danaë in a sealed chamber that had neither windows nor doors, only a opening in the roof. (p. 115)  
*(The oracle, a spokesman for Apollo, the god of prophecy and healing, provided humans with a direct line of communication to Olympus. From the accurate, but sometimes ambiguous, predictions of the future that they obtained, suppliants tried, unsuccessfully, to avoid the terrible fate in store for them.  
Refer to pages 42, 110, 132, and 158 for episodes in which characters petition the most famous oracle at Delphi, on the slopes of Mount Parnasses. Page 42 describes how each pilgrim approaches the sibyl to ask a question about the future.)*
5. One of the islands that Poseidon raised out of the sea was Delos. (p. 40)  
*(Many islands dot the Mediterranean world. Delos, the smallest island in the group known as the Cyclades, which lie in the Aegean Sea, is composed of rugged granite. At the center of the island is Mount Cynthus, where Leto (also called Latona) bore Apollo and Artemis, whom Zeus fathered. The island became a center of worship for the two deities, who were also referred to as Delos and Delia by association with their birthplace.)*
6. Mortal Descendants of Zeus. (p. 108)  
*(A constant factor in Greek mythology is Zeus's frequent fathering of children by mortal women. Because of her husband's fascination with human beauty, Hera, the goddess of married love and childbirth, was kept busy punishing Zeus's lovers. The Romans named the month of June, sacred month of weddings, in honor of her Roman name, Juno.)*
7. He withstood the fire, and she had almost succeeded in making him immortal, when Peleus rushed into her room and snatched the child away. (p. 180)  
*(The story of the birth of Achilles involves a mortal who comes very close to immortality. The son of Thetis, a sea nymph, and Peleus, a human, he survives the ordeal by which his mother hopes to render him deathless. In an alternate version, Thetis dips him in the River Styx to make his body*

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

*invulnerable to death, but she fails to dampen his heel, by which she holds him.*

*Despite Thetis's efforts, Achilles is fated to live a short, but worthy life. In Homer's account, he dies ironically: Paris, a poor warrior and the abductor of Helen, accidentally shoots Achilles in the heel, the only part of his body that is mortal.)*

8. Then Zeus would reach for a thunderbolt and the Olympians would tremble and fall to order, for Zeus alone was stronger than all the other gods together. (p. 23)

*(Zeus's thunderbolts are a good example of natural phenomena which are explained by myth. To rule the universe, Zeus needs a powerful weapon. The bolts of lightning, which rock the heavens with noisy thunder and strike terror into the hearts of humans, are symbolic of power as well as caprice, for Zeus often wreaks terrible damage by a hastily-thrown bolt.)*

9. As the god of music, he must have the lyre and he offered Hermes his whole herd in exchange for the instrument. (p. 53)

*(Apollo, the god of prophecy and healing, also served as the god of sunlight, music, and creativity. His symbol, the lyre, is significant because it was with stringed accompaniment that wandering singers entertained their audiences and measured out the verses that contained myths and legends of ancient heroes. Homer himself is thought to have been a blind musician who made his living by wandering from place to place regaling audiences with the traditional lore of Greece.)*

10. Arachne's tapestry was also beautifully woven; Athena herself had to admit that the girl's craftsmanship was flawless. (p. 36)

*(Like the songs of the poet, tapestries convey the traditions of the ancient world in colorful tableaux which capture significant scenes from myths and legends. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Penelope weaves a tapestry ostensibly to serve as a burial shroud for her father-in-law, Laertes, but actually to stave off the suitors who seek to marry her. By deceiving them and pulling out her work each night, she manages to remain unmarried until her husband, Odysseus, returns and reclaims the throne of Ithaca.)*

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

#### Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. What is the difference between the Titan gods and the Olympian gods?

*(The children of Gaea, the earth mother, and Uranus, lord of the universe, the twelve Titan deities—six gods and six goddesses—were born "so long ago that nobody knows when or how." They are "taller than the mountains [Gaea] creates to serve them as thrones." They live in a time of great cruelty, when Uranus imprisons their three one-eyed brothers, the Cyclopes, in "Tartarus, the deepest, darkest pit under the earth.")*

*Gaea gives the Titans a sickle to use against Uranus and stop his cruelty. Only Cronus is daring enough to drive Uranus away and take over his powers. Cronus, too, is cruel, and guards against a similar takeover by swallowing his newborn children. Rhea, his wife, tricks him, giving him a stone to swallow so she can save Zeus, the first of the Olympian gods.*

*With the help of Metis, daughter of a Titan, Zeus overthrows Cronus, forces him to vomit up Hades, Poseidon, Hestia, Demeter, and Hera, who join with Zeus in forming the backbone of the Olympian deities. Zeus is more diplomatic than his father and forges an alliance with Prometheus, Epimetheus, and the Cyclopes, all members of the Titan set.*

*Because Gaea objects to Zeus's tactics, his reign is not so smooth as that of Uranus. Eventually, however, Zeus battles the monsters she sends to challenge his power and settles peacefully in a "towering palace for the gods on top of Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece." His realm is more involved with human life on earth, and the Olympian gods are deeply embroiled with human affairs, sometimes taking part in love affairs, arguments, and war.)*

2. Why does Pandora release evils into the world?

*(Pandora, who begins life as a statue "modeled by Hephaestus in the likeness of Aphrodite," receives the gifts of life from Athena and beauty from Aphrodite. Zeus, however, blesses her with "insatiable curiosity" and a sealed jar she must never open. Because of Zeus's capricious test of Pandora's mortality, she gives in to her weakness and opens the jar. Just as Zeus expected, "out swarmed a horde of miseries: Greed, Vanity, Slander, Envy, and all the evils that until then had been unknown to mankind." Only Hope remains at the bottom of the jar.)*

3. Give an example of Daedalus's cleverness.

*(Daedalus, an "Athenian architect and inventor of marvelous skill," builds the palace of Cnossus for King Minos. In addition, he builds a hollow wooden cow for Queen Pasiphaë and a labyrinth under the palace to house the Minotaur. In a later episode, he coaxes an ant to threat the inner chambers of a conch shell by luring it to a dot of honey.*

*More inspired than these ideas, however, is his invention of "two sets of wings, one pair for himself*

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

and one pair for his son, Icarus," by which he escapes imprisonment. He fashions the wings of "feathers set in beeswax." Daedalus pays a cruel price for his cleverness when his son flies too near the sun, melts the wax, and plunges into the sea to his death.)

### 4. Describe the *Argo*.

(Jason's ship, which carries him and his men to Colchis to retrieve the Golden Fleece, is a sturdy, seaworthy ship which contains a "piece of sacred oak in its prow." In times of danger, the oak speaks to Jason and gives him good advice.

The ship is powered by fifty oars, pulled by heroes "who swore to stand by Jason through all dangers." To inspire the crew, Orpheus joins their quest and sings beautiful music. When the wind dies, Orpheus "beat out the time with his lyre and the ship cut through the waves like an arrow."

After life turns sour for Jason, he grows old, unfaithful to his sacred oath, and less handsome. Without friends or luck, he sits in the shade of his rotting ship on the beach at Corinth. The sacred piece of oak falls from the prow and crushes him.)

### 5. Explain the location of Troy.

(Greece's great adversary, Troy, lies northeast of Greece on a point of land in Asia Minor (or modern-day Turkey) near the Bosphorus, which leads through the Dardanelles to the Black Sea, where Jason sails to retrieve the Golden Fleece. The two powers, Greece and Troy, are separated by the Aegean Sea and several important islands, including Lesbos, Chios, Delos, and other islands of the Cyclades.)

### Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

### 6. How do Oedipus's troubles begin before he is even born?

(Oedipus's father, King Laius of Thebes, learns from the oracle of Delphi that the queen's child is "fated to kill his father and marry his mother." The king, horrified at such a catastrophe, has a servant abandon the infant Oedipus in the mountains. As is always true in Greek myths, the prediction comes true in its own strange way.

Oedipus grows up in Corinth, unaware that he is adopted. He, too, hears the same message from the oracle and tries to flee from the people he assumes to be his parents. On his way toward Thebes, he kills an old man who refuses to yield a place for him to pass on the narrow mountain road. When Oedipus arrives at Thebes, he answers the riddle of the Sphinx and marries the widowed queen. In this way he fulfills the terrible oracle.)

### 7. How does Eris create strife among Hera, Aphrodite, and Athena?

(Because she is not invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis, Eris, the "spirit of strife," throws a

golden apple among the wedding guests and shouts, "The fairest of the goddesses shall have it!" The apple, just as Eris hopes, arouses rivalry among three proud goddesses, Hera, Aphrodite, and Athena, each of whom thinks herself the fairest.

The quarrel leads Zeus to a sensible solution—he sends Hermes to Mount Ida in Troy with the quarrelling goddesses. Hermes leaves the choice of who is fairest up to Paris, a handsome shepherd. Each of the goddesses offers a bribe—the kingdom of Asia from Hera, wisdom from Athena, and the most beautiful woman in the world from Aphrodite. Paris chooses Aphrodite and receives Helen as his reward.

The strife that Eris causes is universal—because Aphrodite rewards Paris with a married woman, two great powers of the Mediterranean world become involved in a ten-year war, which costs many lives and brings hardship and misery to both the Greeks and the Trojans. Even after the war, Aeneas and Oedipus wander the Mediterranean in search of home.)

### 8. Why is Orpheus unsuccessful in retrieving his bride from Hades?

(Orpheus, singer of soul-stirring music, loses his bride, Euridice, on their wedding day because she steps on a snake and dies of its bite. Too sad to sing, joy goes out of his life, and he ceases to make music with his lyre. He searches for the entrance to the underworld and once more plucks the strings of the lyre in order to "move the cold heart of Hades."

All the creatures of Hades are charmed by the music, even Cerberus and Persephone. Hades consents to Euridice's return to earth on one condition—Orpheus must not look back at her until they return to the land of the living. Orpheus wanders back toward the light, but falls victim to doubts that he has been tricked. Near the entrance, he turns toward the sound of Euridice's footsteps. For an instant, he sees her face and hears her whispered farewell. "He had lost her forever through his lack of faith.")

### Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

### 9. What useful lessons of life are contained in Greek myths?

(Greek mythology is based on human needs and behavior. To read the stories is to read the history of all humankind. Outstanding among the themes is the sin of pride, which causes Phaethon to petition for a godly chariot ride, Icarus to fly too high, Ariadne to boast of her weaving skills, and Oedipus to kill a stranger in a petty quarrel over right-of-way. Other sins are obvious. The reader of myth perceives the damage done by Pandora's curiosity, Cronus's savagery, Asclepius's and Narcissus's self-interest.

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

*To the Greeks, all the earth reflects the nature of human beings and their interaction with deities. The Greeks explained the rainbow, thunder and lightning, winds, and the seasons with age-old stories told in a human setting. The stories are simple, yet thought-provoking, particularly the graver myths about Hades, the Erinyes, and the Fates. No mortal, no matter how strong, beautiful, wily, audacious, or talented, escapes the human situation, which leads ultimately to death.)*

10. Explain why modern readers are still fascinated with stories that date back before history was recorded.  
*(The great wisdom of mythology has made it immortal. From the stories of great heroes, mighty cities, and other examples of power and influence, readers learn that corruption exists at the root of all greatness and that events can alter quickly, reducing human splendor to misery and longing. Modern readers often find Greek mythology at the base of the most up-to-date literature, a sure sign that the people who constructed myths understood the basic human weaknesses—usually pride and greed.)*

### Question 11 Creative Level

11. Draw a map similar to the one on page 8. Expand it with stories that you read from other tellers of Greek myths, including Ovid, Robert Graves, Thomas Bulfinch, and Edith Hamilton. Place the events, cities, and characters on your map with pushpins. Draw dotted lines to show long voyages.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Select a favorite myth to practice reading aloud. Emphasize the most dramatic parts of the story with voice tone and gestures. Present the story to the class either as a live or taped reading.
2. Hold up an illustration from the book and explain to the class the characters and story depicted. Comment on how you would change or add to the illustration if you were drawing pictures to represent the Greek myths.
3. Make a wall chart of the names of Greek gods and goddesses. Include an alternate listing of their Roman names. Beside each entry, draw a symbol to represent each deity's power, such as the trident for Poseidon or the thunderbolt for Zeus.
4. Make an outline of the events in the life of a hero, such as Theseus, Jason, or Perseus. Draw illustrations in the margin to enhance your work, such as the head of Medusa, the Golden Fleece, or the Minotaur.
5. Draw some pictures of monsters from Greek mythology. Create some monsters of your own, such as a creature that is half dinosaur, half hummingbird. Write an appropriate episode to explain how a great hero or heroine conquered your monsters.
6. Make a mural of the beings that live in the Greek underworld. Include Persephone, Hades, and Cerberus.
7. Underline names from Greek mythology in the following list of English words and phrases: Oedipus complex, the Midas touch, Alpha Centauri, Promethean, heliotrope, titanic, June, hygienic conditions, furiously, European, Augean, narcissism, by Jove, tantalizing, oceanography, summer Olympics, herculean, Bacchanalian, Athens, corinthian column, aeolian harp, echoed, Sibylline Books, phaeton, vestal virgin, typhoon, vulcanization of rubber, Parisian holiday, Saturnine, spartan living quarters.
8. Create a myth in which you explain a simple fact from nature, such as the chirping of a grasshopper or the reason for thunder and lightning during a rainstorm.
9. Form a group and pantomime a single myth. Ask students to guess which story you are depicting. Select appropriate music and costumes to accompany your production.
10. Make a shadow box which shows an episode from the life of Pandora, Bellerophon, Tantalus, Selene, Eos, Helen of Troy, Deucalion, Orion, or Artemis.
11. Make a guessing game of famous pairs from mythology, such as Hephaestus and Aphrodite, Zeus and Hera, Orpheus and Euridice, and Hades and Persephone. Give points to the team that correctly identifies each pair.
12. Construct a lyre or panpipes out of simple materials. Add a short history of the instrument. Show what modern orchestral instruments evolved from it.
13. Make a list of twenty challenging vocabulary words from the book. Memorize the definitions and make a sentence with each word. Have a classmate test you on your mastery of the list. Trade lists with another student and master a second list.
14. Examine the picture of Hermes on page 55 and explain where his likeness is used in modern advertising.
15. Draw a chart of constellations named for Greek myths. Explain to the class when each cluster was discovered, where it is visible, and how it can be recognized.
16. Locate slides or prints of statuary that depict the gods. Explain how artists make the statue recognizable.
17. Find examples of Greek culture in American life, such as shoe, clothing, or hair styles; people's names; architecture; scientific terms; and movies or books that mention ancient themes, such as the story of the Trojan War.
18. Write out both capital and little letters from the Greek alphabet. Compare the letters to our alphabet.

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

19. Make a model or detailed drawing of something typically Greek, such as a chariot, cooking vessel, decorative jar, loom, temple, boat, tablet, weapon, or armor.
20. Make an oral report on a famous first from ancient Greece, such as Aesclepius, the first doctor; Herodotus, the first historian; or the Greek stage, the first theater in the Western world.

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## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

### VOCABULARY WORKSHEET

Underline a word that completes the thought of each of these quotations from the story. You may need to check unfamiliar words in the dictionary.

1. It ravaged the whole island, and though the Cretans were great bullfighters, no one could (**lurk, persuade, subdue**) the beast until Heracles had come to capture it for one of his labors.
2. The scented smoke of her burnt offering of (**sweetmeats, smiths, bellows**) and cakes reached Zeus and put him in a good humor.
3. She was forever hungry and sucked into her (**sickle, gullet, crone**) all ships that ventured within her reach.
4. Also the Muses fell silent, but their songs live on to this very day, and the constellations put up by the gods still glitter on the dark blue (**combat, labyrinth, vault**) of the sky.
5. Orion's club and mighty sword were no (**strait, avail, score**) against the scorpion's poisonous tail.
6. Orion grew angry and threatened to carry off the princess, but the king soothed him with (**honeyed, laden, spellbound**) words, sent for wine, and filled his cup so often that Orion drank too much and fell asleep.
7. But when he arrived, the palace was empty, for the king had seen his huge, (**menacing, beseeching, shriveling**) shape against the sky and fled with his daughter.
8. All her children loved their warm and (**subdued, murky, bountiful**) mother and feared their mighty father, Uranus, lord of the universe.
9. He let the dead souls enter, but, once past his (**bidding, gnashing, searing**) teeth and spiked tail, they could never go out again.
10. If he ignored the nymph, she might send a (**forlorn, charred, venomous**) water snake to bite him, or she might poison the water and make him sick.
11. "**(Flee, Gorge, Singe)**!" she said. "Or you too will be devoured by the sea monster!"
12. On the back of his flying horse, Bellerophon set off to fight the Chimera, a fire-breathing beast that was (**exceeding, ravaging, crouching**) the kingdom of Lycia in Asia Minor.
13. The Argonauts, brave as they were, all feared Heracles when he was struck with (**ruffians, crevices, folly**).
14. He unleashed his fury, spitting fire and venom, and his black scaly body did not stop its (**beckoning, writhing, wooing**) and coiling until Apollo had shot him with a thousand of his silver shafts.
15. Dressed in a gown of (**iridescent, indomitable, supple**) drops, she ran along the rainbow on her busy errands between Olympus and earth.

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I (pp. 9-15): Sentence Completion (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase to complete each of the following statements. Choose your answer from the list that follows. Place your answers in the blanks provided at left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ gods looked much like people and acted like them, too, only they were taller, handsomer and could do no wrong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The gods lived on top of \_\_\_\_\_, a mountain so high and steep that no man could climb it and see them in their shining palace.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mortals worshiped the gods and the gods honored \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Gaea fell in love with \_\_\_\_\_, who was lord of the universe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The \_\_\_\_\_ were the first children of Mother Earth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The Titans had six sisters, the \_\_\_\_\_, whom they took for their wives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Each of the three \_\_\_\_\_ had only one glowing eye set in the middle of his forehead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The deepest, darkest pit under the earth was called \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Only \_\_\_\_\_, the youngest but the strongest of the Titans, dared to take the sickle to end his father's cruelty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Rhea spirited her son, the little god \_\_\_\_\_, to a secret cave on the island of Crete.

Crete, Cronus, Cyclopes, fire-breathing, five sisters, Golden Age, Greece, Greek, herdsmen, Mother Earth, Olympus, Pontus, Rhea, Sky, sprites, Tartarus, Titanesses, Titans, Uranus, Zeus

#### Part II (pp. 16-69): Matching (30 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. forges a trident for Poseidon so that he can strike the sea and make waves.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. becomes the youngest Olympian and the god of wine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. travels along the rainbows on errands between Olympus and earth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. sits on the highest throne with a bucketful of thunderbolts beside him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. rules over the dead and stays in a gloomy palace in the underworld.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. the queen of Olympus and a jealous wife, she is Hephaestus's mother.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Zeus changes her onto a snow-white cow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. the god of smiths and fire, he makes jewels for his wife to wear.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. the mother of Eros, she rises from the sea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. a vain, cruel, but handsome god, he enjoys wars and strife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Zeus's favorite child.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. raises Delos out of the sea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. causes the air over Delphi to fill with the songs of birds.



## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

\_\_\_\_\_14. the merriest of gods and the god of shepherds.

\_\_\_\_\_15. wife of Hades and daughter of Demeter.

- |              |             |               |               |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| A. Aphrodite | F. Artemis  | K. Eros       | P. Io         |
| B. Apollo    | G. Athena   | L. Hades      | Q. Iris       |
| C. Arachne   | H. Cyclopes | M. Hephaestus | R. Persephone |
| D. Ares      | I. Dionysus | N. Hera       | S. Poseidon   |
| E. Argus     | J. Eris     | O. Hermes     | T. Zeus       |

### Part III (pp. 70-105): True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Prometheus feels sorry for mankind and asks Zeus for fire to keep men warm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Pandora is curious about the marble statue and removes the rubies from its lips and the sapphires from its eyes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. After the flood, Deucalion chooses Aeolus to be in charge of the winds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Phaëthon is proud of his immortal father and begs to be allowed to drive the sun chariot for one day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. When Pan is in a good mood, he cavorts through glades and forests and plays his shepherd's pipe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Narcissus falls in love with Echo's face, which is reflected in the water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Asclepius, the first doctor, is killed by his teachers, the centaurs, for raising the dead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Apollo trains the nine Muses to sing together in harmony.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Grieving for his dead wife, Orpheus is the first human to go to Hades.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Orpheus dies of grief because his wife returns to the underworld.

### Part IV (pp. 106-187): Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose any three of these topics and write a complete answer.

1. Explain how Perseus kills Medusa.
2. Describe Heracles's twelfth labor.
3. Explain how Theseus escapes from the labyrinth.
4. Write out the riddle of the sphinx and its answer.
5. Describe the harpies.
6. Explain how Helen causes a war between Troy and Greece.

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following quotations with names of speakers from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I love you . . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. How could I have stolen your cows? . . . . I am only a newborn babe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. King Midas has ass's ears!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I'll tell you what has become of your daughter if you'll give my city a spring.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Very well . . . just hold the sky while I make a pad of my lion skin, the sky is hard on my shoulders.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Let the goddess Athena herself come and measure her skill against mine . . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Dear child . . . never again shall we be parted. Together we shall make all nature bloom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Do you have proof that he really is who he says he is? If I were you, I would ask him to show himself in all his splendor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Fair nymph . . . you would not be my bride, but at least consent to be my tree and your leaves shall crown my brow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Plow a field . . . . Pull out the dragon's teeth and sow them in the furrows.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Andromeda, shield your eyes!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. What creature is it that walks on four feet in the morning, on two at noon, and on three in the evening . . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Bring the fleece to me and the throne shall be yours.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The fairest of the goddesses shall have (the golden apple.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Take this weapon, make an end to your father's cruelty and set your brothers free.

- |            |                   |                 |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| A. Apollo  | F. Eris           | K. Mother Earth |
| B. Arachne | G. Hera           | L. Pelias       |
| C. Athena  | H. Heracles       | M. Perseus      |
| D. Demeter | I. Hermes         | N. Sisyphus     |
| E. Echo    | J. Midas's barber | O. Sphinx       |

#### Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase from the list that follows in answer to each of the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided at left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which group is headed by Mnemosyne?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What animal does Heracles kill in his first labor?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Who drowns in the sea after the wax melts on his wings?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What girl started life as a marble statue?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What does Orpheus play in order to inspire sailors to row?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Which god wears wings on his hat and on his sandals?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. What does Orion's image become after his death?

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. What part of Medusa does Athena fasten to her breastplate in order to make her more powerful?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. What object held Meleager's life inside it?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. How many children were born from Leda's swan eggs?

Arachne, Argonauts, Artemis, bear, chest, constellation, Europa, Fates, four, head, Hermes, Icarus, Io, laurel tree, lion, log, lyre, Muses, net, Pandora, Phaëthon, serpent, teeth, Troy, two

### Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase from the list that follows to complete each of the following statements.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. \_\_\_\_\_, the Queen of Sparta, is the beautiful sister of Clytemnestra.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Because \_\_\_\_\_ eats seeds from the pomegranate, she is forced to return to Hades for part of each year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The god \_\_\_\_\_ has goat's legs, pointed ears, a pair of small horns, and dark, shaggy hair.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Fates and Hades complain that Asclepius is able to bring the \_\_\_\_\_ back to life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. All living things love their mother, Gaea, and their father, Uranus, lord of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. To save her son, Rhea gives Cronus a \_\_\_\_\_ wrapped in baby clothes to swallow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. To assist the birth of \_\_\_\_\_, Hephaestus splits open Zeus's skull to relieve his terrible headaches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Athena, with the wise \_\_\_\_\_ seated on her shoulder, watches over Athens.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Leto's daughter, Artemis, is the goddess of the \_\_\_\_\_ and all newborn creatures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The Greeks sneak into the city of Troy inside a great wooden \_\_\_\_\_.

Aphrodite, Apple of Discord, Athena, centaur, day, dead, flood, Golden Fleece, Helen, horse, hunt, moon, owl, Pan, Persephone, river, Selene, stone, Syrinx, Theseus, universe, wall, winds

### Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose three of the following topics and write complete answers.

1. List ways in which the gods and goddesses are different from human beings.
2. Describe two characters from Greek myths who are disobedient.
3. Explain how Zeus saves the Titan gods.
4. Describe at least two characters who want to fly and tell what happens to them.
5. Choose a love story from Greek myths and explain whether it ends happily or sadly.
6. Explain how the Fates determine the length of human life.

## BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

### VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. subdue     | 9. gnashing    |
| 2. sweetmeats | 10. venomous   |
| 3. gullet     | 11. flee       |
| 4. vault      | 12. ravaging   |
| 5. avail      | 13. folly      |
| 6. honeyed    | 14. writhing   |
| 7. menacing   | 15. iridescent |
| 8. bountiful  |                |

### COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY

#### Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Greek        | 6. Titanesses |
| 2. Olympus      | 7. Cyclopes   |
| 3. Mother Earth | 8. Tartarus   |
| 4. Uranus       | 9. Cronus     |
| 5. Titans       | 10. Zeus      |

#### Part II: Matching (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. H | 6. N  | 11. G |
| 2. I | 7. P  | 12. S |
| 3. Q | 8. M  | 13. B |
| 4. T | 9. A  | 14. O |
| 5. L | 10. D | 15. R |

#### Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. F  |
| 2. F | 7. F  |
| 3. F | 8. T  |
| 4. T | 9. T  |
| 5. T | 10. F |

#### Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.

### COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. B  | 11. M |
| 2. I | 7. D  | 12. O |
| 3. J | 8. G  | 13. L |
| 4. N | 9. A  | 14. F |
| 5. H | 10. C | 15. K |

#### Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. Muses   | 6. Hermes        |
| 2. lion    | 7. constellation |
| 3. Icarus  | 8. head          |
| 4. Pandora | 9. log           |
| 5. lyre    | 10. four         |

#### Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Helen      | 6. stone  |
| 2. Persephone | 7. Athena |
| 3. Pan        | 8. owl    |
| 4. dead       | 9. hunt   |
| 5. universe   | 10. horse |

#### Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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