

Greek and Roman Mythology Background and Vocabulary

There are many sources for ancient Greek and Roman myths. The Greeks and the Romans created myths to:



- ❖ Explain natural phenomenon (weather, seasons, natural wonders, such as animals, lightening)
- ❖ Explore humankind's relationship to the divine (gods and goddesses)
- ❖ Illustrate moral truths (lessons about right and wrong)
- ❖ Entertain through storytelling



Greek and Roman mythology explores the following major characters:



- ❖ Gods and goddesses (Aphrodite, Hermes, Mars, Poseidon, The Titans, the Muses, Zeus)
- ❖ Heroes and Heroines (Mortals such as Odysseus, Hercules, Jason, Theseus)
- ❖ Creatures (Cyclops, The Sphinx, Medusa, Chimera)



Did you know?

The ancient Greeks and Romans made gods in their image. This meant that the gods had human frailties and faults as well as superpowers and wisdom.

Gods often tested the will and character of mortals by sending them on difficult and dangerous quests, or missions.

The Greek gods lived on mount Olympus, but would often visit earth to interact with mortals.

The gods could be fair and compassionate as well as unfair and cruel all at the same time.

Centaurs were half man and half horse creatures.

The River Styx is featured in several myths and was the passageway to the world of "the dead."

Unit 9 Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
cause	An event or action that brings about another event or reaction
connotation	The ideas and feelings associated with a word. Example: The expression, "That's cool!"
denotation	The dictionary definition of a word
effect	An event or reaction following a cause
idiom	An expression that has a meaning different from the meaning of its individual words
metaphors	A comparison of two things that have some quality in common without the words <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>
mood	The feeling(s) that a literary work conveys to a reader. A mood is an emotion such as sadness, excitement, or anger.
myth	A traditional story that attempts to explain the origins or workings of the world.
setting	The time and place of a story. The setting is important because it may establish the mood or affect the plot.
similes	A comparison of two things that have some quality in common using the words <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>
theme	A message about life or human nature that is conveyed by a work of literature
tone	The writer's attitude toward his or her subject , which could be serious, playful, humorous, etc.