

Year 8 English Summer Term: Myths, Legends, Heroes and Villains

Structural Techniques	Figurative Language	Grammar:	The Key Figures in Mythology Structural Features
<p>Exposition – start of the story introducing the characters and setting</p> <p>Denouement – the ending/resolution.</p> <p>Shift – a change in the direction of the text</p> <p>Position – where something is placed in a text</p> <p>Digression – heading away from the main focus of the text</p> <p>Flashback – going back in time</p> <p>Flash forward – going forward in time.</p> <p>Chronological – in time order</p> <p>Non-chronological – not in time order.</p> <p>Linear – straightforward story structure</p> <p>Non-linear – the structure is not straightforward</p> <p>Cyclical Structure – the text ends where it began</p>	<p>Simile – comparing one thing to another using like or as.</p> <p>Metaphor - where something becomes something else</p> <p>Personification - giving something inanimate (not human) human characteristics</p> <p>Alliteration – using the</p> <p>Onomatopoeia – words that sound like they are said aloud</p> <p>Imagery – creating a picture in your mind with words</p> <p>Oxymoron – putting opposites next to each other</p> <p>Symbolism – where something represents something else.</p>	<p>Noun – naming word</p> <p>Noun Phrase – a group of words that act like a noun</p> <p>Verb – doing word</p> <p>Prepositional Phrases - a group of words starting with a preposition and ending with a noun</p> <p>Adverbs – describe a verb (how something is done).</p> <p>Adjectives – describe a noun</p> <p>Sentence Types/ Terminology:</p> <p>Minor sentence</p> <p>Simple Sentence</p> <p>Compound Sentence</p> <p>Complex Sentence</p> <p>Subordinate Clause</p> <p>Main Clause</p> <p>Coordinating conjunction</p> <p>Subordinating conjunction</p>	<p>Izanami and Izanagi – From the Japanese creation myth, these two gods created land and the seas that make up the earth, using a powerful spear.</p> <p>Zeus is the Olympian god of the sky and the thunder, the king of all other gods and men, and, consequently, the chief figure in Greek mythology.</p> <p>Medusa – In Greek mythology, Medusa was a monster, a Gorgon, generally described as a winged human female with living venomous snakes in place of hair. Gazers upon her face would turn to stone.</p> <p>Apollo is one of the most important and complex of the Olympian gods in Greek and mythology. Apollo has been variously recognised as a god of music, truth and prophecy, healing, the sun and light, plague, poetry, and more.</p> <p>Minotaur – this terrible creature is a mixture of different animals. It was created to guard an enormous, inescapable maze.</p> <p>Hades – god of the underworld often pictured with a three headed dog Cerberus the monstrous multi-headed dog that guards the gates of the Underworld to prevent the dead from leaving.</p> <p>Hecate or Hekate is a goddess in ancient Greek mythology, most often shown holding a pair of torches or a key and in later periods depicted in triple form. She was associated with crossroads, entrance-ways, light, magic, witchcraft, knowledge of herbs and poisonous plants, ghosts, and sorcery.</p>



Themes in Greek/Roman Mythology to use as a stimulus for imaginative writing

Gods and Goddesses

- The gods/goddesses of Greek mythology embody human emotions.
- The gods/goddesses of Greek mythology manifest human flaws and failings.
- The gods/goddesses of Greek mythology meddled in human affairs, wars The gods/goddesses manipulate and use mortals for their own purposes.
- The gods/goddesses of Greek mythology often deceived and/or abducted mortals.
- The schemes and plots of the gods and goddesses often entangled mortals.
- The gods/goddesses of Greek mythology had frequent affairs (with each other as well as with mortals).
- The gods/goddesses often engaged in strange behaviour that would never be considered acceptable in humans.

Reward for Goodness & Retribution for Evil

The gods/goddesses judge our moral actions and dispense justice accordingly. The gods punish pride, arrogance, and/or disobedience in mortals.

Those who defy or challenge the gods are made to suffer.

The morality of Greek mythology is not the same as Judeo-Christian morality. Many myths are “morality tales” that illustrate the value system of the culture.

Fate

No human or god can escape fate.

Trying to change/defy fate only guarantees a prophecy comes to pass.

Personal Suffering and Struggle

Progress comes through struggle.

Mythological characters often had to overcome...

- o ...loneliness.
- o ...oppression.
- o ...tyranny.
- o ...violence.

Conflicts in myths are often structured as...

- o ...intellectual vs. animal.
- o ...persuasive vs. brute.
- o ...spiritual vs. violent.

Context

Ancient Greeks followed their own set of gods, Zeus being King of the gods.

Greece was referred to as the ‘birthplace for Western Civilisation’. The Ancient Greeks tried out democracy, started the Olympic Games and left new ideas in science, art and philosophy (thinking about life). Most Greeks lived in villages or in small cities with beautiful temples with stone columns and statues, and open-air theatres where people sat to watch plays.

Impressive phrases used to describe:

- a blazing blue sky poured down torrents of light
- absorbed in a stream of thoughts and reminiscences
- an inexplicable and uselessly cruel caprice of fate
- fitful tumults of noble passion
- He evinced his displeasure by a contemptuous sneer or a grim scowl
- Night passes lightly in the open world, with its stars and dews and perfumes
- Misgivings of grave kinds
- The awful and implacable approach of doom

