Unit 5: Mythology in the Modern World

Content Area: **World Languages**
Course(s):
Time Period: **December**
Length: **5 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Enduring Understandings

Allusions are stylistic devices used by authors and artists to provide an additional level of meaning. Allusion is used to explain or clarify a complex idea through a brief reference. Though myths may not seem to have a place in contemporary society, mythological allusions and clichés permeate our everyday language. The inferences gleaned from mythological allusions affect thoughts, actions, emotions, and even decisions in life.

Essential Questions

Why do authors, artists, and others use allusions to mythology? What is the benefit of such references? How does knowledge of mythological allusions enhance the meaning of a literary work or abstract concept? To what extent do people still use classical clichés, proverbial expressions, and conversational phrases that have their origins in classical mythology? What other fields use mythological references?

Content

This unit on mythological allusions will help students understand references that are otherwise only read about in their respective mythological texts. As students read their assigned selections, they will not only focus on the stories themselves, but they will also learn how the references are used in each selection, how references affect meaning, and how such references help a reader to understand the nuances provided by additional information. The unit will also introduce students to popular myths that are still commonplace in modern times as part of aesthetic language, each of which relies heavily on the assumption that people know what the reference is about and should know intended meaning.

Myths are not only a part of the past but also an integral part of everyday modern life and of our cultural heritage. Today, allusions to myths are found in ordinary conversations, in songs, sermons, ads, and brand names. Thus, knowledge of ancient mythology will enhance everyday life. Myths are exciting to learn on their own merits and have the power to help us understand ourselves and how we relate to the world around us.

The big ideas embedded in this unit include:

When a person borrows a word or a phrase from another work of literature, history, religion, art, or other events, factual or fictitious, an allusion or reference is made to an ancient story or myth. Writers or speakers use brief references to enhance the meaning of an expression or to provide depth to a character or plot. With just a word or two, an individual can create expanded descriptions or images, provided the reader knows what

is being referred to in the text. Mythological allusions can be found in literature, art, advertising, and other fields of study.

Unit 5 Latin Vocabulary

- lector- reader
- lego- read
- auctor- author
- spectatores- audience
- auditores- audience
- societas- society
- multus- many
- poeta- poet
- carmen- poem
- cotidie- everyday
- sciencita- science
- fabula- story, myth
- cultus- style
- genus- way
- penicillus- pencil, brush
- puto- think
- intellego- understand
- vita- life
- mors- death
- pictor- artist
- alius- others
- omnes- everyone
- bene- well
- bonus- good
- malus- evil
- alludo- allude
- opus- work
- libellus- book of poetry
- volumen- scroll
- conversatio- conversation
- origio- origin
- lingua- language
- sententia- opinion
- cogitatio- thinking
- enthymema- thought
- intentio- purpose
- cogitatus- thought
- actio- action
- consilium- decision
- adfectus- disposition
- motus- feeling
- commoitio- emotion
- arbitrium- decision
- constitutio- destiny

- fata- fate
- Parcas- the Fates

Skills

Recognize allusions as stylistic devices. Identify the origin of common mythological allusions in the arts and sciences. Interpret mythological references in a variety of sources. Use mythological allusions in writing and speaking.

Resources

Reaching Olympus: The Greek Myths, Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters by Zachary Hamby

Reaching Olympus, The Greek Myths: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals by Zachary Hamby

Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths, Including the Aeneid by Zachary Hamby

Interdisciplinary Standards

Reading Standards for Literature: RL.9-10.1, RL.9-10.2, RL.9-10.3, RL.9-10.4, RL.9

10.6, RL.9-10.7, RL.9-10.10, RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.3, RL.11-12.4, RL.1112.6. RL.11-12.7, RL.11-12.10

WL.7.1.NM.A.C	Cultural
WL.7.1.NM.A.C.2	Observing and participating in culturally authentic activities contribute to familiarization with cultural products and practices. (Topics and activities that assist in the development of this understanding should include, but are not limited to: authentic celebrations, songs, and dances.)

WL.7.1.NM.A.C.4	Many products and practices related to home and community are shared across cultures; others are culture - specific. (Topics that assist in the development of this understanding should include, but are not limited to: home life, places in the community, activities within the community, and travel.)
WL.7.1.NM.A.C.6	Maps, graphs, and other graphic organizers facilitate understanding of information on a wide range of topics related to the world and global issues. They make complex concepts more accessible to second - language learners w ho have limited proficiency in the language. (Content areas that assist in the development of this understanding should include, but are not limited to: history, economics, science, and geography.)
WL.7.1.NM.A.C.7	Learning about age - and developmentally appropriate content that is of high interest to students and has a direct connection to the cultural contexts of the target language cultivates an awareness of the shared human experience. (Content that assists in the development of this understanding should include, but is not limited to: all content areas and popular culture.)