Unit 3: Narrative Writing & Greek Mythology

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **Language Arts 4**
Time Period: **December**
Length: **4 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Summary

In this unit, students will become familiar with myths through Readers Workshop and Writers Workshop. We'll explore the most famous characters and story structures of this genre. Readers learn that myths are both lessons and cautionary tales, and that they often offer explanations of how things in the world came to be. Readers who know this genre also know a lot about how stories go, and about literary traditions. Often contemporary novels are a retelling of a classic tale or myth. In contemporary novels and nonfiction texts, there are often allusions to famous literary characters or mythological characters. Recognizing these famous characters in other text and story lines will develop cultural literacy in all readers.

As writers of Greek Mythology students will use skills of a narrative writer and understand the elements that make up the structure of a myth. They will learn that fiction writers get ideas from small moments in their lives and build believable characters. They will learn through creating myths the importance of revising and keeping their audience in mind. Writers will use their planning and drafting skills to create new projects related to Greek Mythology.

Standards

LA.RL.4.1	Refer to details and examples in a text and make relevant connections when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
LA.RL.4.2	Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
LA.RL.4.3	Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).
LA.RL.4.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in literature.
LA.RL.4.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.
LA.RF.4.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
LA.RF.4.4.A	Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.
LA.RF.4.4.B	Read grade-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression.
LA.RF.4.4.C	Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.
LA.W.4.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using narrative technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
LA.W.4.3.A	Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
LA.W.4.3.B	Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
LA.W.4.3.C	Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events.
LA.W.4.3.D	Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
LA.W.4.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

LA.W.4.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.4.6	With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.
LA.L.4.1.A	Use relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which, that) and relative adverbs (where, when, why).
LA.L.4.1.B	Form and use the progressive (e.g., I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking) verb tenses.
LA.L.4.1.C	Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., can, may, must) to convey various conditions.
LA.L.4.1.D	Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., a small red bag rather than a red small bag).
LA.L.4.1.E	Form and use prepositional phrases.
LA.L.4.1.F	Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
LA.L.4.1.G	Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to, too, two; there, their).
LA.L.4.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.4.2.A	Use correct capitalization.
LA.L.4.2.B	Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.
LA.L.4.2.C	Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.
LA.L.4.2.D	Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.
LA.L.4.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.4.5.A	Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., as pretty as a picture) in context.
LA.L.4.5.B	Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
LA.L.4.5.C	Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms).
TECH.8.1.5.A.1	Select and use the appropriate digital tools and resources to accomplish a variety of tasks including solving problems.
TECH.8.1.5.A.2	Format a document using a word processing application to enhance text and include graphics, symbols and/or pictures.
TECH.8.1.5.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.5.C.CS1	Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others by employing a variety of digital environments and media

Student Learning Objectives

Reading:

Students will learn to…

- identify allusions in Greek Mythology
- identify myths as cautionary tales

Writing:

Students will learn to…

- write an original narrative alluding to characters, lessons and settings for Greek myths.
- create and develop stories with characters that feel real

Essential Questions

Reading:

- What meaning do the Greek myths have for us today?
- Where are allusions to Greek mythology used in everyday life?
- How does our knowledge of Greek mythology help us as readers deepen our comprehension of modern day text?

Writing:

- Where do writers get their ideas?
- How do writers develop believable characters?
- How does our knowledge of Greek mythology help us as writers develop a myth?
- How does our understanding of allusions enhancing our writing?
- How does the story structure of a myth guide our own writing?
- How did Greek mythology influence the understanding of the world?

Enduring Understandings

Reading:

Students will understand that:

- myths have predictable story structures and purposes.
- myths teach lessons.
- Greek myths reward characters with good traits and punish those with bad traits.
- myths explain how something in the world came to be.

Writing:

Students will understand that:

- myths have predictable story structures and purposes.
- Greek myths reward characters with good traits and punish those with bad traits.

Application

Reading:

Students will be able to independently use their learning to:

- reference modern day allusions in text and multimedia.
- explain the lesson or moral a myth teaches.

Writing:

Students will be able to independently use their learning to:

- rewrite a myth from a different point of view of another mythical character.
- draft and revise writing with an eye toward believability.
- prepare for publication with an audience in mind.

Skills

Reading:

Students will be skilled at:

- referencing modern day allusions in text and multimedia.
- identifying moral or lessons taught in myths and applying to modern day life.

Writing:

Students will be skilled at:

- producing original writing.
- drafting, revising and editing their own original writing.
- identifying an audience and purpose for writing.