

# 8th Grade Reading Mini Unit 1- Greek Heroes - GB8

Content Area: **Reading**  
Course(s): **Great Books 8**  
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**  
Length: **25 days**  
Status: **Published**

## Established Goals/Standards

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LA.RL.8.2	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.8.3	Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
LA.RL.8.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
LA.RL.8.5	Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
LA.RL.8.6	Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.
LA.RL.8.9	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new.
LA.RL.8.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above, scaffolding as needed.
LA.W.8.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
LA.W.8.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
LA.W.8.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.W.8.9.A	Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new”).
LA.SL.8.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
LA.SL.8.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
LA.SL.8.1.B	Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
LA.SL.8.1.C	Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others’ questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.

LA.SL.8.1.D

Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.

LA.SL.8.3

Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

## Essential Questions

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Please add your Essential Questions by clicking on the Lists tab above.

- What are the characteristics of the ancient hero?
- What character traits were valued in ancient times, and does our modern era espouse the same values?
- What is the narrative archetype of the ancient hero and how can it help us understand modern narratives in literature?
- Why are classic references important to understanding modern literature?

## Enduring Understanding

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Please add your Enduring Understandings by clicking on the Lists tab above.

- Ancient heroes are strong, intelligent, violent, and fallible
- Classic reference provide a collective culture and experience in literature and are essential to understanding the different literary movements in history.
- Joseph Campbell's narrative archetype of the hero includes 12 narrative elements that are use in modern films, texts, and stories today. Understanding this archetype can help us better understand what it means to be human.
- The ancient Greeks valued intelligence, sacrifice, strength, and honor. While these qualities are present in much of modern American literature, new values such as individuality have become important in the modern American hero narrative.

## Content

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- anthropomorphism/personification
- hero culture
- internal and external conflict
- Joseph Campbell and the Archetype of the Hero
- motifs
- natural phenomena
- symbols
- themes and morals

## Resources

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Please add your Resources by clicking on the Lists tab above.

- Echoes from Mount Olympus edited by the Great Books Foundation
- Joseph Campbell's archetype of the hero
- Tales of the Greek Heroes by Roger Lancelyn Green