

Myths and Adventures from Ancient Greece – Education pack

For Key Stage 2: Ages 7-11 years



Image from Midas

Introduction from the writer Hannah Khalil

Hello, I'm Hannah, the writer of Myths and Adventures from Ancient Greece. When I was asked to adapt four Greek Myths by Watermans in Brentford with Ian the director, and Sam the designer, I was very excited. But I wanted to try and make my version of the myths a bit different, so that even though they are thousands of years old, they still feel a bit new and exciting.

I also wanted to try and find a narrator to link all four stories. We decided to do Pandora, Persephone, Midas, and Theseus and the Minatour. And when I was re-reading Pandora I had the brainwave that perhaps the little bug called Hope, who is left in Pandora's box at the end, could be the storyteller and lead us through all these stories, because "we all need a bit of hope" don't we?

Then, when I was thinking about the stories themselves, I tried to come up with a different point of view to tell them from. Often Greek Myths tell us a lot about the heroes who go off fighting, but their wives and daughters are sometimes a bit in the background and I decided to try and do something about that. So, as you will see when you watch our shows, Pandora realises all the

bad in the world isn't actually her fault; Persephone's story is told by her worried Mum and Ariadne in Theseus isn't interested in getting married, she wants adventures of her own.

Writing activity

Now I'd love to set you a writing challenge. I'd like to see what new perspective you can come up with for a Greek Myth. Can you try and think of an interesting, unusual character to retell a traditional Greek Myth? It could be one of the myths in our series – or another myth that you are a fan of.

If you want to use one of ours you can see them all here –

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZvJ49nF0XmZ8yY89ZpLh3TDET6Uyuxfk>

Or if you'd like to try a different one you can listen to lots of Greek Myths on the BBC website here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/ks2-ancient-greece/zk73nrd> .

TIP: When you listen to the story, whose voice do you not here that you'd like to?

Five questions to ask yourself:

- Who might be watching and listening that we don't see?
- Over what time period is this happening?
- Where does the story begin? (Can you start it later or earlier?)
- Does it move to a different place? (Could it?)
- How is the character influenced by the world they live in? And what choices do they make that change themselves or the people around them?



Image from Persephone

For example: how about trying to rewrite Persephone from one of the dead people in Hades: how happy are they to welcome Persephone to the underworld – maybe they make friends



with her and don't want her to leave? Or you could have a go at telling Midas' story from the point of view of his daughter Marigold. What does Marigold think of her father's gardening? Does she have a wish she'd like him to make – one that would be much better than her father's foolish one for gold?

Have a think and have a go at writing your own version of a traditional myth. And do share your stories with us – we'd love to hear them.

Further resources

- BBC bitesize resource pack on Greek Myths - http://teach.files.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/english/tales_from_ancient_greece/ancient_greek_myths.pdf
- Who were the ancient Greek gods and heroes? - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/articles/zgt7mp3>
- What is a myth – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx339j6/articles/ztxwsrd>
- Quiz – how well do you know your Greek Myths? – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7x4vwx>

