

GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY COURSE OUTLINE (1 SEMESTER)

Introduction: One of the most frequently-asked questions is “How do you set up a mythology course?” This is a detailed outline of how I run my semester-long Greek and Roman mythology course. All the materials that I use in my own class are available on Mythologyteacher.com or appear in the *Reaching Olympus* textbook series.

Allotted Time: Numbers appearing to the left of assignment titles indicate the days of each unit. The entire semester consists of 90 planned days of instruction.

Resources: For a full list of resources used in this outline, see the list at the end of the document. Script-stories (Reader’s Theater plays) listed here come from the *Reaching Olympus* series, available for purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>. Note that *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters* was previously titled *Reaching Olympus: The Greek Myths, Vol. I*.

Using Script-Stories in the Classroom: Each volume within the *Reaching Olympus* series contains a section that lists best practices for using script-stories (Reader’s Theater) in the classroom.

Anticipatory Set: Each script-story in the *Reaching Olympus* series includes a series of anticipatory questions to get students engaged in the content of the story.

Assessment: Each script-story in the *Reaching Olympus* series contains five recall questions that can be used as a post-script-story quiz.

Unit Exams and Quizzes: This outline recommends conducting formative assessments or quizzes throughout the unit and days for summative assessments at the conclusion of each unit. These assessments are not included with this outline. Teachers can create their own, or there are several available for purchase at the mythologyteacher.com store under the heading of *Exams*: <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>

Unit One: Greek Mythology, Creation and the Gods (23 Days)

1. **Ancient Greece Webquest**
 - a. Assignment: Learn about the culture and history of ancient Greece using the provided informational webpages and question packet found on mythologyteacher.com.
 - b. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/Ancient-Greece-Webquest.php
2. **Ancient Greece Webquest (cont.)**
3. **Ancient Greece Webquest (cont.)**
4. **“The Creation of the Universe” and “War of the Titans” (worksheets)**
 - a. Assignment: Answer all discussion questions that follow the stories.
 - b. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*

5. **Notes on the Greek gods and goddesses (Powerpoint presentation)**
 - a. Source: <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>
 - b. Assignment: Have students write a letter to a god or goddess asking him or her a question. The students may write the letter as themselves or take on the persona of an ancient Greek or another god or goddess. The letter must be one page in length and contain all the elements of a letter.
6. **"Prometheus the Firebringer" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
7. **"Deucalion and the Great Flood" (worksheet)**
 - a. Assignment: Answer all discussion questions that follow the stories.
 - b. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
8. **"Mighty Aphrodite" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
9. **"A God is Born" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
10. **"Loves of the Gods" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
11. **"The Contest for Athens" (worksheet) and "The Adventures of Apollo" (worksheet)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
12. **Temple Trouble (game)**
 - a. This game reinforces the names and titles of the various gods and incorporates strategy and simple math skills.
 - b. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
13. **Notes over the lesser gods and creatures**
 - a. Available at mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php
14. **"Narcissus and Echo" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
15. **"Orpheus" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
16. **Brief Tales of Lovers**
 - a. Quiz: Take a quiz over the Greek and Roman names of the gods.
 - b. Assignment: Research a series of brief tales that deal with the issues of friendship and love. Identify common themes and motifs within the stories.
 - c. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php
17. **"Cupid and Psyche: Part I" (script-story)**
 - a. Note: This script-story uses the Roman names for the gods. Reading a script-story that uses the Roman names of the gods provides good reinforcement for the learning of the Greek and Roman names.
 - b. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*
18. **"Cupid and Psyche: Part II" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*
19. **"The Life (and Deaths) of Sisyphus" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*

20. "King Midas" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*

21. Mount Olympus Find-It Picture Puzzle

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*

22. Mythology Charades for Review

- a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>

23. Creation and the Gods Exam

- a. Source: Available for individual purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>

Unit Two: Greek Heroes (20 Days)

1. Introduction to Heroes Assignment

- a. "Hall of Heroes" worksheet

- i. Source: <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero%27s-Journey.php>

2. Comic Book Heroes

- a. Assignment: Discuss similarities between Greek gods and modern superheroes.

- b. Read Christopher Reeve article

- i. Source: <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero%27s-Journey.php>

- c. Analyze "Superman" song

- i. Source: <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero%27s-Journey.php>

- d. Analyze "Holding Out for a Hero" song

- i. Source: <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero%27s-Journey.php>

3. Joseph Campbell's Monomyth: The Hero's Journey

- a. Article: "Star Wars: Monomyth"

- i. Source: <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero%27s-Journey.php>

- b. The Hero's Journey stages

- i. Source: <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero%27s-Journey.php>

- c. Powerpoint of the Hero's Journey

- i. Source: <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero%27s-Journey.php>

- d. Monomyth Map: Have students map out a story that they have read or watched before

4. "The Tale of Perseus" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*

5. "The Winged Horse" (script-story)

- a. Discussion: What are the elements of parody?

- b. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*

6. "Atalanta: The Female Warrior" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*

- b. Discuss: How are females presented in Greek mythology?

7. Mythological Barbie assignment

- a. Assignment: Create a doll based on a female Greek character.

- b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>

8. "Phaethon's Ride" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*

- b. Discuss the different types of heroes: hero, anti-hero, tragic hero, etc.
- 9. **"Heracles: The True Story" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
- 10. **"The Golden Fleece: Jason and the Argonauts Part I" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 11. **"Aboard the Argo: Jason and the Argonauts Part II" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 12. **"Medea the Witch: Jason and the Argonauts Part III" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 13. **"Atalanta's Race" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
- 14. **"The Inventor's Apprentice" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 15. **"Theseus: The Road to Athens" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
- 16. **"Theseus: Lost in the Labyrinth" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*
- 17. **"Daedalus and Icarus" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 18. **"Oedipus the Cursed King" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 19. **Underworld Find-It Picture Puzzle**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 20. **Mythology Charades for Review**
 - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>
- 21. **Greek Heroes Exam**
 - a. Source: Available for individual purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>

Unit Three: The Trojan War (16 Days)

- 1. **Trojan War character notes (Powerpoint presentation) and "Understanding Helen" (worksheet)**
 - a. Source for character notes: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>
 - b. Source for "Understanding Helen": *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 2. **"Judgment of Paris" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 3. **"The Tides of War" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 4. **Trojan War Game (interactive game)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 5. **"Sacrifice at Aulis" (worksheet)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 6. **"War at Troy" (script-story)**

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- b. Assignment: Write a dialogue between two characters involved in the Trojan War
- 7. Trojan War Game (cont.)**
- 8. "The Rage of Achilles" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 9. "Achilles' Last Stand" and "Wounded by Love?" (worksheets)**
 - a. Source for all materials: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 10. "The Marooned Prince" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 11. Trojan War Game (cont.)**
- 12. "Fall of Troy" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 13. Trojan Find-It Picture Puzzle**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 14. Trojan poetry**
 - a. Assignment: Write three poems based on characters or events from the Trojan War.
- 15. Mythology Charades for Review**
 - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>
- 16. The Trojan War Exam**
 - a. Source: Available for individual purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>

Unit Four: The *Odyssey*, *Aeneid*, and Roman mythology (26 Days)

- 1. "Searching for Odysseus" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 2. "On Calypso's Isle" (script-story)**
 - a. "The Lotus-Eaters and the Sirens" (worksheet)
 - b. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 3. "In the Cave of the Cyclops" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 4. "Circe the Witch" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 5. "Return to Ithaca" (script-story)**
 - a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Saga of the Trojan War*
- 6. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (film)**
 - a. Analyze the ways in which the *Odyssey* inspired the film.
 - b. Analysis sheet available at <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Odyssey.php>
- 7. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (cont.)**
- 8. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (cont.)**
- 9. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (cont.)**

10. Roman Webquest

- a. Assignment: Learn about the culture and history of ancient Greece using the provided informational webpages and question packet found on mythologyteacher.com.
- b. Available at <http://www.mythologyteacher.com/Ancient-Rome-Webquest.php>

11. Roman Webquest (cont.)

12. Roman Webquest (cont.)

13. "Escape from Ilium" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

14. "Islands and Inlets" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

15. "Love in Carthage" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

16. "Descent into Hades" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

17. "The Fury of Juno" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

18. "The Battle for Italy" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

19. "Romulus and Remus" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

20. "The Abduction of the Sabine Women" (worksheet)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

21. "The Desecration of Lucretia" (worksheet)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

22. "Metamorphoses: Tales of Love" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

23. "Wrath of the Gods" (script-story)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

24. Battlefield (interactive game)

- a. Source: *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*

25. Mythology Charades for Review

- a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>

26. *Odyssey* and *Aeneid* Exam

- a. Source: Available for individual purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>

Unit Five: Mythology in the Modern World (5 Days)

1. The Art of Allusion

- a. Analyze the ways that mythology inspires writing, art, and pop culture.
- b. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>

2. The Art of Allusion (cont.)

- a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>

3. The Art of Allusion (cont.)

- a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>
- 4. **The Art of Allusion (cont.)**
 - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>
- 5. **The Art of Allusion (cont.)**
 - a. Source: <http://mythologyteacher.com/Greek-Mythology.php>

Resources:

Hamby, Zachary. Mythologyteacher.com. Hamby Publishing, 2010. Web. 26 February 2014.

Hamby, Zachary. *Reaching Olympus: The Greek Myths, The Saga of the Trojan War*. Dora, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2012. Print.

Hamby, Zachary. *Reaching Olympus: The Greek Myths, Tales of Titans, Gods, and Mortals*. Dora, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2014. Print.

Hamby, Zachary. *Reaching Olympus: The Greeks Myths, Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters* (formerly known as *Reaching Olympus: The Greek Myths Vol. I*) Dora, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2010. Print.

Hamby, Zachary. *Reaching Olympus: The Roman Myths*. Ava, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2014. Print.

O Brother, Where Art Thou? Dir. Joel Cohen and Ethan Cohen. Touchstone Pictures, 2000. Film.

Note on Texts: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters* is alternately titled *Reaching Olympus: The Greek Myths, Vol. I*.