

## Entrance Ticket: Unit 1, Lesson 5

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** As you enter class, read the learning targets. Next, complete the following: Read this statement:

Our topic for this module is **Greek Mythology**, and we are learning about **Greek Mythology** through the novel *The Lightning Thief*.

Answer these questions in the chart below. Use the affix list to break the word down into its affixes and root.

- What is the root of the word **mythology**?
- What does the root mean?
- What do the affixes mean?
- What is the origin of each part of the word?

|                                    | Word Parts and Meaning | Origin |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| <b>Prefix</b><br>(before the root) |                        |        |
| <b>Root</b>                        |                        |        |
| <b>Suffix</b><br>(after the root)  |                        |        |

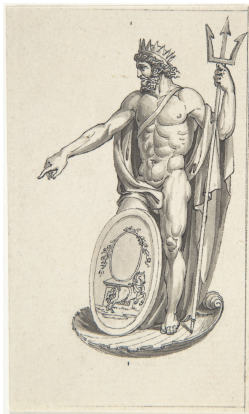
## Text: “Why Ancient Greek Mythology Is Still Relevant Today”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Why Ancient Greek Mythology Is Still Relevant Today

If there is one subject that is still widely taught today, it has to be the subject of ancient Greek mythology. It isn't just taught as part of a literature curriculum at school but is also part of most history lessons. Some people might wonder why the world is still so hung up on ancient Greek myths when they are nothing but stories and they came from thousands of years ago. However, one look at the vast amount of ancient Greek-themed movies and literature today, people will quickly come to the conclusion that the world is still fascinated with Greek mythology though they might not always be able to say why.

For those who think that ancient Greek mythology stories are nothing more than a bunch of outdated tales, they just happen to be wrong. For sure, these stories may have been written hundreds if not thousands of years ago, but it is good to remember they were written by wise men who had a hand in helping shape modern thinking. These great men, Aristotle and Sophocles to name a few, were not mere storytellers; they didn't spend their days weaving tales just because they wanted to and had nothing to do. They were too good for that and this is why their Greek myths have withstood the test of time and are relevant until today. In fact, they might even still be relevant a hundred years from now.



Charles Percier. “Design for Neptune with an Oval Medallion.” Illustration. c. 1764-1838. Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gift of Lincoln Kirstein, 1965. *Wikimedia*. Web. Public domain.

### **What Are Greek Myths?**

To some people, Greek myths are these epic tales of gods and goddesses gallivanting about the earth, achieving all sorts of impossible tasks. They are stories of people dealing with the gods and either they come out triumphant or they end up bloody and charred or turned into animals and plants. Indeed, a person who doesn't look beyond the surface will think these tales are nothing more than flights of fancy by old story-tellers from the past but a deeper look at the stories will tell you more than that. These myths aren't just legends and while they are "just stories" they are stories with a purpose and reason. A deeper look at Greek myths should reveal morals, philosophies, and even warnings.

These tales rarely have the happily-ever-after endings people are so used to these days but remember, they weren't written for entertainment—they were written with a higher purpose. One wouldn't expect such great minds to waste their time telling a story for the sake of telling a story; they had to have purpose and they had to impart knowledge. In truth, these myths give people a chance to glimpse at the way the Greeks lived and how they thought back then. It might seem hopelessly outdated and unimportant but the exact opposite of that is true.

### **What Is the Importance of the Greeks?**

Most people will not really notice it unless they are told to do so, but there are so many Greek influences around the world today. In fact, it is impossible to go around to completely understand the basics of things like fine arts, literature, and performing arts without touching on some Greek myth.

These myths were an integral part of ancient Greek culture because this was how they passed down lessons from one generation to the next without things getting boring and dull. Anyone who has ever picked up a book on Greek myths or seen a movie inspired by one can attest to its action-packed nature. Some might wonder what the point is to just passing down stories— stories that were made up and were in no way true but that was the beauty of Greek mythology in ancient times. They became the perfect way to impart lessons without being dull or boring.

### What Did These Myths Do?

These myths were told to people and it helped them realize the difference between right and wrong. It helped them come to terms with how they should be humble and never think themselves immortal or they might just be proven wrong in the most horrible and inopportune of ways. Also, these tales tell people of heroes and how true greatness was achieved by those who dared while at the same breath, showing the flaws of these heroes.

Any modern person who reads or hears of Greek myths will be hard-pressed to stay unaffected. They are simply that good and this proves just how relevant they still are. Anyone can pick up a book of Greek myths. For sure, they will get something from it.

### Why Study Greek Myths?

Reading and hearing about Greek mythology is one thing but why are modern people still made to study them? The answer to that is very simple: to learn. People still study the ancient Greeks and their myths much in the same reason they study other cultures and that is so they can learn from it. After all, when you study a culture as progressive as that of the ancient Greeks, you really can't help but learn lessons. These myths, for their part, show modern people a glimpse of how they thought in the past, what they considered important, how their morals worked, etc. Another reason to study those Greek myths is because they have contributed a lot to classic and modern literature in the form of symbols.

It has been said that simply by studying or even just reading some of these myths, people can learn how to control their actions or at least think better of what they do. After all, a lot of these stories tell tales of how human follies, stupidity, and even hubris get people in trouble. In a sense, these myths serve as a warning for people on how they should and should not be. The irony of the situation is that most people still tend to go with their follies, choose to make stupid decisions, and have hubris. It is almost comical how these myths capture human behavior in the ancient times that are still alive and kicking today.

## Who Are Some Famous Authors?

Below is a short list of some famous Greek mythology authors and their equally famous works:

**Plato** – This is perhaps one of the most famous of famous Greek writers. He is known for his popular dialogues including the Republic, Phaedo, Symposium, Phaedrus, Timaeus, and Philebus. Nothing much is known about Plato but it cannot be denied that his writings have had lots of influence on classic literature as we know it today.

**Sophocles** – Sophocles wrote 123 plays during his career and while some people might expect a happy ending from those plays, they will be sorely disappointed. Sophocles was a tragedian and came up with famous tragedies like Oedipus, the King and Electra, and Antigone. Of his 123 plays, only 7 survived intact.

**Euripides** – He was also a tragedian like Sophocles and while he wrote only 95 plays, at least 18 of them survived. Some of his famous works include Medea, The Bacchus, and Alcestis. What made his plays and stories stand out was that they tended to be realistic and would show strong women with wise slaves. He had a massive influence on the concept of European Tragedy.

**Aristophanes** – This writer was a comedian and at some point, his pen was the most feared weapon in Athens. He wrote 40 plays but only 11 have survived. Plato even pointed out that the play The Clouds written by Aristophanes was responsible for the trial and execution of Socrates.

Mlleff, Geri. "Why Ancient Greek Mythology Is Still Relevant Today." *Owlcation*, 29 Dec. 18. Used by permission of the author.

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Why-Ancient-Greek-Mythology-is-Still- Relevant-Today>

## Close Read: “Why Ancient Greek Mythology Is Still Relevant Today” Note-Catcher

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the central idea of this text? How does the author develop this idea?

Source: Mlleff, Geri. “Why Ancient Greek Mythology Is Still Relevant Today.” *Owlcation*, 29 Dec. 18. Used by permission of the author. <https://owlcation.com/humanities/Why-Ancient-Greek-Mythology-is-Still-Relevant-Today>

### “What Are Greek Myths?”

**Key Vocabulary** (Discuss the answers to the questions below.)

1. Which is most likely the correct definition of **morals** as the word is used in this section?
  - A. ideas or habits of behavior that have to do with what is right and what is wrong
  - B. scornfully ironic remarks
  
2. What is the meaning of the word **philosophies** as it is used in this section?
  - A. the written rules of a government
  - B. the personal values and rules that guide one in life

**Main Idea and Supporting Details** (Add the details used to support the main idea of each section.)

Main idea: **Myths are more than just tales of gods and goddesses doing impossible tasks on earth.**

Supporting details:

- 1.
- 2.

**“What Did These Myths Do?”**

**Key Vocabulary** (Discuss the answers to the questions below.)

The word **immortal** comes from the Latin root **mort** (death) and the prefix **im-** (not). What do you think **immortal** means?

**Main Idea and Supporting Details** (Add the details used to support the main idea of each section.)

Main idea: **Myths were used to teach lessons in ancient Greece.**

Supporting details:

- 1.
- 2.

**“Why Study Greek Myths?”****Key Vocabulary** (Discuss the answers to the questions below.)

Carefully reread this sentence:

“After all, a lot of these stories tell tales of how human **follies**, **stupidity**, and even **hubris** get people in trouble.”

Is **hubris** a positive (good) characteristic or a negative (bad) one?

How do you know?

What is **hubris**? Use a dictionary to find the definition.

**Main Idea and Supporting Details** (Add the details used to support the main idea of each section.)

Main idea:

Supporting details:

- 1.
- 2.



**Culminating Task:** According to the author, why is ancient Greek mythology still relevant today? With a partner, take turns orally summarizing a section of the article that you analyzed. Use the notes in the Main Ideas and Supporting Details rows to help you to explain the author’s main points accurately and concisely.

## Language Dive: “Why Ancient Greek Mythology Is Still Relevant Today,” Paragraph 10 Note-Catcher

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“After all, a lot of these stories tell tales of how human follies, stupidity, and even hubris get people in trouble.”

| What might these words mean? |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| FOLLIES                      | HUBRIS |
|                              |        |

follies (noun, plural):

hubris (noun, singular):

Discuss these examples with a partner. If you want, you can take notes or sketch pictures underneath the sentences.

A. I know I said I would come to your party, but I can't come **after all**.

B. We have plenty of time before the weekend to decide. **After all**, it's only Monday.

Complete the sentence frames to talk about Percy and chapter 3 of *The Lightning Thief*.

1. Percy should have told someone sooner about Mrs. Dodds. After all,

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2. Percy's mother thought he would be safe at Yancy Academy, but

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\_\_\_\_\_ after all.

Discuss with your triad:

Human follies, stupidity, and hubris are common in mythology because

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