

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

Greek and Roman Mythology: Goddesses, Monsters, and Heroes

Artist: Sharyn Brooks Katzman

Workshop Description

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All human civilizations throughout history have produced and relied on the power created through their mythology. Stories of ancient heroes, gods, and monsters shape the consciousness of the cultures who preserve them through story and song.

Sharyn Brooks Katzman presents to students the power that Greek and Roman mythology still holds over Western culture during this interactive workshop. Sharyn demonstrates how mythic characters such as Atlas, Nike, and Narcissus

influence students' everyday life, ideals, and purchasing choices.

Sharyn leads the group in an examination of how entrenched Greek and Roman mythological archetypes are in American culture. Examples used are drawn from recent theatrical releases, television programming, animation, video games, language, advertising, and even footwear.

The workshop concludes with the students having the opportunity to perform classical Greek and Roman myths as Sharyn narrates the stories.



Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Be introduced to the Greek and Roman mythology that is ingrained in modern culture
- Explore the power that mythological characters have to sell everything from consumer goods to ideologies

Behavioral Studies:

- Knows how a culture's art works and artifacts reflects its values and beliefs

Language Arts

- Understands the ways in which language is used in literary texts

Special Points of Interest:

The original religion of the early Romans was so modified by the addition of numerous and conflicting beliefs in later times, and by the assimilation of a vast amount of Greek mythology, that it cannot be reconstructed precisely.

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Slide projector and screen; extension cord

Artist Bio: Sharyn Brooks Katzman

Historian Sharyn Brooks Katzman holds a Master's degree with honors in art history. Her lectures and demonstrations draw upon her museum and teaching experience, as well as years of living abroad.

Formerly a printmaker, Sharyn teaches on both the elementary and college level and writes art criticism.

Sharyn curates exhibitions and develops programs

for a wide variety of audiences which include the Haskell Indian Nations University and the Jewish Museum Without Walls. Her presentations often emphasize the contributions of women, as well as African-Americans, Native-Americans, and other persons of color.

Her programs aid critical and creative thinking, build self esteem, and encourage inquiry.



Helios

Vocabulary

Atlas: The Titan who was made to hold up the heavens.

Ceres: goddess of grain and growing.

Echo: a nymph punished by Hera for talking too much. Echo's punishment was that she could speak only the last word someone else spoke.

The Furies: formed from Uranus' blood; were spirits of revenge.

Myth: A traditional, typically ancient story dealing with supernatural beings, ancestors, or heroes. These beings serve to explain aspects of the natural world or delineate the psychology, customs, or ideals of society.

Stentor: A herald of the gods noted for his loud voice.

Titan: ruler of the universe.

Post-Workshop Activities

1. What activities and events does your family celebrate? Do they reflect your culture and heritage? Are there any tokens or charms (lucky coin, cutting the ends off a roast, etc.) that your family has adopted for good luck?
2. Examine your families beliefs. Can you trace the influence of ancient Greek and Roman mythologies in your ideologies?
3. Look for the impact of Greek and

Roman mythological characters in popular culture (songs, television, movies.) Also look for mythological influence on consumer goods. How are "the gods" (Mercury, Mars, Jupiter) used to promote a product and influence consumers?

4. Research a myth to see how it explains a natural or physical phenomenon.



List of Resources

BOOKS

Bulfinch's Greek and Roman Mythology: The Age of Fable by Thomas Bulfinch
Dover Publications; Dover edition
(April 1, 2000) ISBN: 0486411079

Mythology : Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes
by Edith Hamilton
Warner Books; (August 1, 1999)
ISBN: 0446607258

Heroes, Gods and Monsters of Greek Myths by Bernard Evslin
Laurel-Leaf Books; Reissue edition
(October 1, 1984) ISBN: 0553259202

The Odyssey (Dover Thrift Editions)
by Homer, George Herbert Palmer
Dover Publications; Unabridged edition
(May 1, 1999) ISBN: 0486406547