

Classroom Activities for Students:

Week One: Make a Map

After reading the first eight chapters, draw and label a map of the Underworld based on the tour Hypnos gives Theseus. You can use other sources to help you. Be sure you label all five rivers, Tartarus, Eberus, The Fields of Elysium, the Room of Judgment, and Cerberus's gate.

Week Two: Research and Present

After reading through Chapter Sixteen, research a god, goddess, or other mythological being from Greek mythology and create a poster illustrating its most significant aspects. Prepare to share your poster with the class in an informal one-minute presentation.

Week Three: Test Your Knowledge of Greek Mythology in Teams

Chapters 17-24 introduce readers to more of the Greek pantheon. As you read, take time out to watch the video on my website at <http://www.evapohler.com/greekmythjeopardy/>. Then ask your teacher to put you in teams and allow you to compete in a game of *Greek Myth Jeopardy*, also located on the same page of my website.

Week Four: Create a Myth

Chapters 25-30 reveal the twelve labors of Hercules (Heracles) and other tales. Most myths were created to explain a natural phenomenon, like Demeter's sorrow for Persephone causing winter. Working in groups of four, create an original myth to explain a natural phenomenon. Designate one person to write down the outline of the story that the group develops--to include a brief description of the opening, inciting event, rising tension, climax, and resolution. Designate a second person to write down the major characteristics of the hero or heroine, to include a physical description, details about homelife and upbringing, and a list of personality traits. Designate a third person to introduce the hero/heroine to the class, and a fourth person to explain the myth your group created.

Week Five: Write a Compare/Contrast Essay

By the time you've read through Chapter Thirty-eight, you've been introduced to many of the Greek gods and goddesses. Choose one from the story to research online and compare and contrast the way that god or goddess is depicted in at least two versions, including mine. Write a short compare/contrast paper detailing the important similarities and differences. Conclude the paper by telling which version you prefer and why.

Week Six: Party with the Author

Once you've finished reading the novel, develop a list of questions you'd like to ask me during a skype session and party day. Remind your teacher to print out the downloadable Greek Mythology Flashcards and Bingo Game. Then, on party day, come to class dressed in toga and bring an assortment of snacks, such as grapes, cheese, crackers, olives, bread, and ham. Sometime during the party, play the Greek Mythology Bingo Game using the Flashcards. During our skype session, tell me the names of up to three winners, and I'll send them a special prize, which I will reveal during our skype.