

# **Mythology**

*Ms. Kevi*

*e-mail: kbyers@mariamontessoriacademy.org*

***It has always been the prime function of mythology and rite to supply the symbols that carry the human spirit forward. - Joseph Campbell***

## **Course Description:**

### **Reading:**

The Greeks had a word for 'story', and that is *mythos*. We will be reading classical Greek and Roman mythological stories. They feature the antics of their powerful gods and goddesses. Through studying the drama, romance, murder, magic, and intrigue we will gain insight into their civilization. We can then connect these stories to our own society.

### **Writing:**

You will continue to strengthen your skills as writers through literary analysis and creative myth writing.

### **Speaking and Listening:**

Along with the daily expectation of communicating with grace and courtesy, you will be able to share with your peers through presentations.

*Socratic Dialogue*: This is a formal group discussion. They will be on a pre-assigned topic connected to each cycle's theme.

### **Language:**

*Etymology*: In regular Language Arts you will investigate the origins of our language. In Mythology, we will pay attention to how that connects to your readings. Each week you will look at assigned word parts, find out where it came from, what it means, and what words we use it in today. This is key to decoding our language. It also means your vocabulary will grow.

### **Expectations:**

- Grace and Courtesy are the expectation of all people in this classroom. Through respectful behavior we, as a class, will learn in a kind, encouraging atmosphere.
- Study Guides will be handed out weekly. All assignments need to be completed.
- Use your planner to ensure you are using your work time wisely.
- Always remember, ask questions.

**Grading:**

- You will receive full points for completed **daily work**.
- You will receive a percentage grade for:
  - Quizzes
  - Tests
  - Projects
  - Participation
- If you see that you are not able to complete the work during your school day, this means it is homework. Please:
  - Document it in your Daily Planner.
  - Bring work home.
  - Bring back schoolwork in the morning.

**How to contact me:**

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at:  
kbyers@mariamontessoriacademy.org

**Learning Goals:**

In each Cycle we will be covering Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language.

- **Cycle 0 – Orientation**
  - Create God and Goddess personality cards
  - Discuss the importance of oral history.
  - Begin Etymology Card set. Understand the importance Latin and Greek roots have in decoding our language
  - Write personal narratives on what deity you are most alike
- **Cycle 1 – Structure**
  - Read assigned myths.
  - Study common themes and tools of the oral tradition
  - Identify the common structures of the gods and goddesses
  - Continue making Etymology Cards and mastering the meaning.
  - Participate in a Socratic Dialogue

- **Cycle 2 – Forces**
  - Read assigned myths.
  - Understand how myths explained the uncontrollable forces of nature
  - Continue making Etymology Cards and mastering the meaning
  - Participate in a Socratic Dialogue
  
- **Cycle 3 – Power**
  - Read assigned myths.
  - Study how myths explain the powerful drive of human nature
  - Continue making Etymology Cards and mastering the meaning
  - Participate in a Socratic Dialogue
  
- **Cycle 4 – Changes**
  - Read assigned myths.
  - Through reading different stories, we will see how they changed to fit into the specific society of Greece or Rome.
  - Identify how the myths continue to change to endure
  - Compare and Contrast a reading of your choice to another piece. It can be anything you choose: songs, a commercial, art, dance, movies, video games, or other texts you have read.
  - Continue making Etymology Cards and mastering the meaning
  - Participate in a Socratic Dialogue
  
- **Cycle 5 – Balance**
  - Choose a favorite myth, and create a modernized version. Through this, it will be easy to see the topics that people love and hate are constant. Human kind is always looking for a balance of right, wrong, and entertainment.
  - Create a presentation of your favorite myth. It can be a play, video, graphic novel etc. Present to the lower elementary students.
  - Continue making Etymology Cards and mastering the meaning
  - Participate in a Socratic Dialogue

***Myths are clues to the spiritual potentialities of the human life.***  
**-Joseph Campbell**