Write a Greek myth

Holly King-Mand

Holly King-Mand is a writer, presenter and campaigner for literacy (the ability to read and write). She has inspired thousands of children to learn English. Holly loves creative writing and has a passion for Greek myths.

Thousands of years ago in ancient Greece, storytelling traditions created the Greek myths that are still told today. Tales involving heroes, gods and monsters were passed down through the generations. They are fantastical stories involving adventure, heroic action and battles with evil. They were also designed to explain mysterious things, like the creation of the universe and nature, as well as exploring big topics like religion, life and death.

Holly loves Greek myths for their battles between good and evil and the wild ways of the gods. Practise your writing skills and unleash your creative side (and your inner hero) by writing your own. Here are Holly's top tips for crafting a magical Greek myth.

GODS AND GAMES
The original Olympic Games were held in ancient Greece in honour of Zeus, ancient Greece's mightiest god.

Work out who's who

Greek myths should have a hero (also called a "protagonist"). Heroes in myths go on journeys, meet interesting characters and battle fierce enemies. They usually have something they're very good at and a terrible weakness. This helps create twists and turns in the tale. The heroic Hercules, for example, is strong and brave but also has a bad temper. Perhaps your hero is a brilliant poet but hopelessly forgetful.

What's the story?

Greek myths usually centre on one of four plots. It could be a journey home (with obstacles in the way) or a quest to find or achieve something – perhaps to get treasure or rescue someone. There are also tales about struggles to found a new town or civilisation. You could write about a battle with a mythical monster; in *Theseus and the Minotaur*, the hero rescues children from a beast that's half-man, half-bull.

Add a god or goddess

Greek myths were an important part of religion in ancient Greece. At this time, people believed in a variety of gods and goddesses, who were all powerful in different ways. For example, Zeus controlled the weather, while Artemis had power over wild animals and hunting. Gods love meddling with heroes and their adventures. They may help your hero on their quest or they may be spiteful and make it trickier.

Put a spin on it

Read some famous Greek myths and see if you can put a spin on one. Try turning a Greek myth into a poem or a cartoon. Add a modern setting – maybe the hero is trying to stop a beach being polluted and Poseidon, the god of the sea, turns up too. You could rewrite the ending of a myth or include modern objects and characters. Perhaps the treasure is a ticket to see Taylor Swift or the "monster" is a politician in disguise.

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