

Mythology Presentations

Your group will be in charge of teaching an important myth or myths to the class in preparation for our unit on *The Odyssey*. You will do this in the form of a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation. While it is possible to make these projects awesome in terms of PowerPoint capabilities, the purpose is to communicate key mythological concepts to the class. Therefore, make your presentations attractive and organized, but mythological content is more important than PowerPoint pizzazz.

The following are key guidelines for this project:

1. Follow the content directions below because this is the information most important in helping us understand *The Odyssey* when we get to it.
2. The source of your information, in this case, should come primarily from the *Mythology* book you have been checked out. There are so many different versions of myths out there that's it's best for us to use the same resource to avoid confusion and contradiction.
3. Do NOT simply copy statements from the book or the websites. You should take the information and paraphrase it in your own words.
4. Do NOT write down every word you are going to say and then stand up front and read all the words to us. Give key information and phrases and expand on them orally when you are presenting.
5. Make sure your slides are easy to read from a distance. Don't try to put too much on a slide. As a general rule of thumb, no more than 30-35 words per slide.
6. Each presentation must fit the time requirement. Minimum is 5 minutes. Maximum is 7 minutes.
7. Each group member must participate in the presentation. Plan in advance who is going to present each slide. Be sure you practice the presentation several times so that everyone knows their parts and so that you can be sure of your time.
8. Be sure that you save the presentation in each group member's U drive. Make sure that all of these files open. If a group member is gone, you will still be expected to present the information. It is your group's responsibility to make sure that the presentation is accessible from school computers. Be sure you check this. Assume nothing.
9. There will be a quiz given on all information we read in the *Mythology* text as well as the content that should be in these presentations. Be sure you teach the information well and in a way that will truly help your peers remember the content.

Content Directions: All of the following information is required. But please don't merely make your presentation simply a checklist of answers to these questions. Present the information as it was intended: tell the story. As a group, you may add more information that you feel would enhance your presentation and add to your classmates' knowledge. You may also go beyond just a PowerPoint and add creative elements. If you want to do something special, get approval from me first.

Group 1: Jason and the Quest for the Golden Fleece

- Required reading pages in *Mythology*: 161-180.
- Stuff to make sure you cover in the presentation:
 - Key players and their contributions to the quest
 - Why the quest was started, what the quest-takers called themselves, who was their leader
 - The key adventures the quest-takers encountered on their journey
 - How did they obtain the fleece and escape
 - Results of the quest
 - Jason and Medea's lives after the quest

Group 2: Perseus and Atalanta (Two different hero stories)

- Required reading pages in *Mythology*: 196-207 for Perseus, 245-252 for Atalanta
- Stuff to make sure you cover in the presentation:
 - Perseus's origins and parents.
 - What happened to him after he was born? Where did he grow up?
 - Story of Perseus and the Gorgons/Medusa
 - Who did Perseus marry and how did they meet?
 - Atalanta's origins and parents. How was she raised?
 - Story of the Calydonian boar?
 - Story of Atalanta and the golden apples?
 - How did Atalanta's life end?

Group 3: Theseus

- Required reading pages in *Mythology*: 208-223
- Stuff to make sure you cover in the presentation:
 - What were Theseus's origins? Who were his parents? What were his ambitions?
 - What is the story of Theseus and the Minotaur? What happened? Who were the key players and how were they involved? What was the result?
 - What were two tragic events that occurred after his victory against the minotaur (Ariadne and Aegeus)?
 - What are some activities and adventures Theseus had as king?
 - Who did Theseus marry and what are some stories of his family?
 - How did Theseus die?

Group 4: Hercules

- Required reading pages in *Mythology*: 225-244
- Stuff to make sure you cover in the presentation:
 - What were Hercules's origins and ambitions? Who were his parents? How was he raised?
 - What were Hercules's strengths and weaknesses?
 - What happened to Hercules's wife and children? Why did it happen? What was the result?
 - Describe Hercules's labors. Pick a few of the BEST ones and share them.
 - What's the story of Admetus and Alcestis...and how was Hercules involved?
 - How did Hercules die?

Group 5: The Trojan War through the end of the *The Iliad*

- Required reading pages in *Mythology*: 254-276
- Stuff to make sure you cover in the presentation:
 - Judgement of Paris—why it happened, what it was, what was the result
 - Helen—who she married and the agreement all of her suitors made with one another
 - Agamemnon and Iphigenia sacrifice
 - Odysseus and why he's at Troy
 - Achilles's background and why he's at Troy
 - Achilles vs. Hector (why it happened and what were the results)

Group 6: The Fall of Troy

- Required reading pages in *Mythology*: 277-290
- Stuff to make sure you cover in the presentation:
 - Achilles's death
 - Trojan horse (who thought of it, what was the plan, how was it carried out)
 - Key players in ending the war
 - What happened to the victors and the losers of the war?

Group 7: Oedipus and Antigone

- Required reading pages in *Mythology*: 376-389
- Stuff to make sure you cover in the presentation:
 - Prophecy to King Laius of Thebes and what he did about it
 - Story of Oedipus and the Sphynx
 - How Oedipus become king, who he married, and what Tiresias the prophet reveals
 - What did Oedipus do when he found out the fate of his father? What happened to his wife after this?
 - What did Antigone do for her father after the revelation?
 - What happened with the battle between Creon and Oedipus's sons?
 - What did Antigone choose to do against the will of King Creon?