

Your Assignment:

Introduction: One of the many lasting gifts from Ancient Greece is mythology. In a time before scientific advances, the Greeks tried to make sense of their world. They didn't understand what caused the wind, storms or the power of the tides. In an attempt to explain these natural phenomena, they told stories. These stories were powered by the actions of supernatural beings, gods and goddesses.

The Ancient Greek gods and goddesses were not perfect. In fact, they had many flaws. The Greeks imagined their gods were like humans, demonstrating human characteristics and emotions like jealousy, vengeance, and fear. These traits caused the gods to be weak and immoral, and to commit the kinds of sins that the people knew all too well. Because of this, the myths are quite entertaining to read. More importantly, the myths express beliefs about human nature that still apply today.

Your Task: Write an original nature myth that explains a natural phenomenon. In addition to explaining a natural event, your myth must include the accurate depiction of one of the Olympian gods and contain elements of Greek myth. In order to do this, you must first do your research. Read several myths to study the style of Ancient Greek myth and discover the power and weaknesses of the god or goddess you have chosen.

Some Elements of Classical Greek Myth

- Explains a natural phenomenon or creation of something
- Depicts a struggle between good and evil characters
- Show a relationship between mortals and the supernatural
- Sometimes depicts a hero's quest to accomplish a great feat

Use the following as a checklist:

PURPOSE: What is the purpose of your myth? What natural phenomenon will your myth explain?

THEME: What message or universal truth will be shared by your myth?

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS: Briefly name and describe your main character, a mortal, (protagonist). Include specific character traits. Please include physical characteristics and personality traits.

SETTING: Give details about the setting of your story. Remember that setting

includes not only time and place, but also environmental details.