

Amanda Gilbert

Unit: Greek Mythology

Introduction to English (9th grade)

SWBAT conduct a research project to answer a question, synthesize multiple sources and demonstrate an understanding of Greek mythology under this investigation.

SW create Keynote presentations on the ipads based upon a Greek constellation myth, using research skills.

Differentiation

- students specifically grouped for the project based upon learning level abilities

Standard W (10)9.7

Conduct **short** as well as more sustained research projects to **answer a question** (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; **synthesize multiple sources** on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Rationale to *research* rather than simply *read* about Mythological Heroes

Why a short research project carries significance: I consider this research project to be a short inquiry for students to manage. However, this project is a warm-up for a later research project within the year.

Compare/Contrast Chalk Talk

- What are your favorite sites?
- What is a reliable source?

Once these questions are hashed out on the board, ask the ultimate question for student research: Do your favorite websites have qualities necessary for a reliable source?

STOP

What is interesting is not always the most important. The websites we are most interested in will generally not contain the most important information for a research project.

The reason is due to ethos-credibility. How much credibility do those friends on facebook have? Is it publishable or does it resemble a diary? Have you ever known someone that had a social media account hacked? Edited?

CAUTION

If the site is easily editable, then it is facing disclaimers. For example, you wikipedia 'Astronomy.' Who is the author? Well since it is editable, we have no immediate answer. The author could have his/her own disclaimers. For example, Disclaimer: I had to wikipedia a star to write this.

This author then decided to write the astronomy page?? That's not worth it.

PROCEED WITH CARE

We want someone that is credible about the subject. If we need to research something that we know NOTHING about, you would want to know the RIGHT information, right? Good sources will be educated in that content area. We learn to research so that we may have a strong skill in finding credible sources.

How do you locate a good source?

Here are some tips for us to begin:

- .edu, .org on the URL claim reliability because they are hosted by acclaimed, educational organizations
- never use a personal blog site, tumblr, social media site to quote information
- check the copyright date at the bottom of the website. You want your information to be up to date
- type in keywords in a trusted search engine; generally, results become more opinionated and social after page 2 of the results in a search engine

Connection

Our research is going to continue on our subject of *Mythology, particular, the mythological hero*.

We already studied "Perseus", and discovered why as a mythological hero, he is somewhat different than the heroes we glorify today. Learning about the differences between Ancient Greek culture and ours allows us a respect for different cultures around us, and allows us to widen our horizons with our present knowledge of the world.

Research Topic

Your research project will be centered around ancient Greek stories that we still glorify today.

That is, the constellations. They have been around for millions of years, and in Greek culture, a star claimed significance. Do "stars" or the word "star" itself have any significance in our culture?

The Greeks used stars to make their stories last-if the stories were written in the stars, then they would surely be told for years and years to come.

Pair Rationale (to avoid complaints once I put students into groups)

I have strategically placed you in a group that I feel will perform well together for this project. It is important to realize that I have not placed you with immediate friends because often times friends become our distractions. Instead, you are with someone else that you may be able to be productive with. That being said, I will not allow groups to be changed or complained about. You have the resources and brainpower to do well on this together.

Prior Lesson Rationale

(My Rationale Prior to reading "Perseus" (our first story in the unit))

Disclaimer: This was found from another awesome teacher-I liked her language so much that I had to include this.

Rationale to learn about a mythological hero:

If a hero is properly defined as somebody who does something dangerous to help somebody else, then the heroes of Greek mythology do not qualify. They were a pretty selfish bunch, often with additional antisocial tendencies thrown into the bargain--in other words, not exactly role models for the younger generation of today. But knowing their names and exploits is essential for understanding references in literature and even popular culture today. So let's recognize and celebrate Hercules and Perseus and the others by their proper dictionary definition: "In mythology and legend, a man or woman, often of divine ancestry, who is endowed with great courage and strength, celebrated for his or her bold exploits, and favored by the gods."

The following is my rough draft for guidelines for the constellation project:

**Miss Gilbert
Intro. to Lit.**

Constellation Project

a stellar study of stars and their stories' origins

★Name: _____

★Partner: _____

★Constellation: _____

Rationale

For the next two days you will create a poster/slide presentation of a Greek Myth-specifically, the myth of a constellation. Myths are important because they provoke the learning of other historical cultures. Many of the Greeks believed in a multitude of Gods, and astronomy, at the time, was a popular art and science in which they could preserve these tales. To this day, we name the constellations as their historical Gods, and through astrology, we even use some of these constellations to foretell our own lives (aka horoscopes). Through learning the themes present in these myths, we can actually learn about the morality that is necessary for a society to function in peace.

Information to include on the Keynote Slides:

1. Introduction

- Name of Constellation

- Greek Meaning of the Name
- 2. Set The Stage**
 - Setting of the Myth
 - Picture depicting the story
- 3. The Story Itself**
 - must have a storyboard with all elements of plot
 - exposition, turning point, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution
- 4. The Hero/Moral**
 - Who is being idolized? Tell us the mythological hero.
 - Main Theme of the Myth; what is it saying about people/life?
- 5. Stargazing Visual Aid**
 - Picture of the constellation
 - What does it look like? Why is it shaped that way?
- 6. Sources (ethos)**
 - Tell us what websites/books you consulted for information (must have at least 2)

Grading

You will be graded on both the project and the presentation.

I. Project (40)

1. Organization (5)
2. Effort (5)
3. Setting (5)
4. Plot Summary (5)
5. Theme/Hero (5)
6. Inclusion of Visual Aids (5)
7. Sources (5)
8. Partner Teamwork (5)

II. Presentation (20)

1. Body Language (5)
2. Voice Projection/Clarity (5)
3. Eye Contact (5)
4. Overall Quality (5)

Disclaimer: If I see you are not working, then points will be automatically revoked from the presentation category (this is your only warning...).