



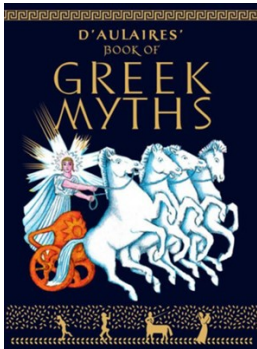
SUMMER READING

9TH -10TH GRADE

2025-2026

DRAFT

Goal: Read and discuss key myths to prepare for Ancient Literature



D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths

ISBN: 978-0-385-01583-7

Required:

- Daily reading
- Story Retelling Project: Due First Week of School (August 12)

Strongly Suggested:

- Create a dictionary of the characters you meet along the way. You can use the guide below or create your own.

Optional:

- Answer the reflection questions in the app and respond to a classmate

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gods

☐ **Day 1:** In Olden Times & Gaea, Mother Earth (pp. 9–11)

☐ **Day 2:** The Titans (pp. 12–15)

☐ **Day 3:** Zeus and His Family (pp. 16–23)

☐ **Day 4:** Hera, Hephaestus, and Aphrodite (pp. 24–31)

☐ **Day 5:** Ares and Athena (pp. 32–37)

Reflection Questions:

1. How do the myths explain the natural world and the authority of the gods?
2. What traits make Zeus the ruler of the gods?
3. How does power and succession play a role in these stories?

Week 2: The Olympian Gods & Their World

☐ **Day 6:** Poseidon and Apollo (pp. 38–43)

☐ **Day 7:** Artemis and Hermes (pp. 44–57)

☐ **Day 8:** Persephone & Demeter (pp. 58–63)

☐ **Day 9:** Dionysus (pp. 64–69)

☐ **Day 10:** Prometheus & Pandora (pp. 72–75)

Reflection Questions:

1. How do these myths explain natural events and human behavior?
2. What lessons are taught through the story of Prometheus and Pandora?
3. How do the gods interact with and control the mortal world?

Week 3: Heroes and Quests

☐ **Day 11:** Deucalion's Flood, Eos, Helios, and Selene (pp. 76–89)

☐ **Day 12:** Pan, Echo, Syrinx & the Wild Centaurs (pp. 90–97)

☐ **Day 13:** Asclepius, The Nine Muses, Orpheus (pp. 98–105)

☐ **Day 14:** Europa & Cadmus, Tantalus & Pelops (pp. 108–113)

☐ **Day 15:** Perseus & The Gorgon (pp. 114–122)

Reflection Questions:

1. What common qualities do Greek heroes share?
2. How are punishment and reward depicted in these myths?
3. What role do the gods play in the success or failure of heroes?

Week 4: Mortal Heroes & The Fall of the Heroic Age

☐ **Day 16:** Midas, Sisyphus, Bellerophon, Melampus (pp. 124–131)

☐ **Day 17:** Heracles (Part 1) (pp. 132–139)

☐ **Day 18:** Heracles (Part 2) (pp. 140–147)

☐ **Day 19:** Theseus & Oedipus (pp. 148–161)

☐ **Day 20:** Jason, Calydonian Boar Hunt, Trojan War (pp. 162–189)

Reflection Questions:

1. How do heroes reflect Greek values such as courage, intelligence, and loyalty?
2. What is the role of fate in the stories of Heracles, Theseus, and Oedipus?
3. How do the myths of Jason and the Trojan War illustrate the transition from the age of heroes to the age of mortals?

Final Reflection:

1. Who is your favorite Greek god or hero? Why?
2. How do these myths reflect Greek values and beliefs?
3. Which myth or character resonated with you the most, and why?

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D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths - Character List

Day 1: In Olden Times & Gaea, Mother Earth (pp. 9–11)

- **Gaea:** Primordial goddess of the earth, mother of all living things.
- **Uranus:** Primordial god of the sky, husband of Gaea, and father of the Titans.
- **Titans:** The children of Gaea and Uranus, including Cronus and Rhea.

Day 2: The Titans (pp. 12–15)

- **Cronus:** Titan ruler who overthrows Uranus and becomes the leader of the Titans.
- **Rhea:** Titaness and wife of Cronus, mother of Zeus and other Olympians.
- **Zeus:** Youngest child of Cronus and Rhea who eventually defeats Cronus and becomes king of the gods.

Day 3: Zeus and His Family (pp. 16–23)

- **Zeus:** King of the gods, ruler of Mount Olympus, and god of the sky and thunder.
- **Hera:** Queen of the gods, wife and sister of Zeus, goddess of marriage and family.
- **Hestia:** Goddess of the hearth and domesticity, sister of Zeus.
- **Demeter:** Goddess of the harvest and agriculture, sister of Zeus.
- **Poseidon:** God of the sea, earthquakes, and horses, brother of Zeus.
- **Hades:** God of the underworld, brother of Zeus.

Day 4: Hera, Hephaestus, and Aphrodite (pp. 24–31)

- **Hera:** As above, but with additional focus on her jealousy and vengeance.
- **Hephaestus:** God of fire, metalworking, and craftsmanship; son of Hera, often depicted as lame.
- **Aphrodite:** Goddess of love and beauty, born from the sea foam.

Day 5: Ares and Athena (pp. 32–37)

- **Ares:** God of war, representing the brutal and bloody aspect of conflict.
- **Athena:** Goddess of wisdom, war strategy, and crafts; born from Zeus's head fully grown.

Day 6: Poseidon and Apollo (pp. 38–43)

- **Poseidon:** As above, with a focus on his dominion over the sea.
- **Apollo:** God of light, music, prophecy, and healing; son of Zeus and Leto.

Day 7: Artemis and Hermes (pp. 44–57)

- **Artemis:** Goddess of the hunt, wilderness, and the moon; twin sister of Apollo.
- **Hermes:** Messenger of the gods, god of travelers, thieves, and commerce.

Day 8: Persephone & Demeter (pp. 58–63)

- **Persephone:** Goddess of spring and queen of the underworld; daughter of Demeter.
- **Demeter:** As above, but with a focus on her search for Persephone.
- **Hades:** As above, focusing on his kidnapping of Persephone.

Day 9: Dionysus (pp. 64–69)

- **Dionysus:** God of wine, revelry, and ecstasy; the youngest Olympian.

Day 10: Prometheus & Pandora (pp. 72–75)

- **Prometheus:** A Titan who defies Zeus by giving fire to humanity.
- **Pandora:** The first woman, created by Zeus to bring trouble to humankind; opens the jar releasing all evils.

Day 11: Deucalion's Flood, Eos, Helios, and Selene (pp. 76–89)

- **Deucalion & Pyrrha:** Survivors of Zeus's flood, who repopulate the earth by throwing stones.
- **Eos:** Goddess of the dawn, who brings the morning light.
- **Helios:** God of the sun who drives his chariot across the sky each day.
- **Selene:** Goddess of the moon, sister of Helios.

Day 12: Pan, Echo, Syrinx & the Wild Centaurs (pp. 90–97)

- **Pan:** God of nature, shepherds, and flocks; known for his wild music and frightening appearance.
- **Echo:** A nymph who was cursed by Hera to only repeat the last words spoken to her.
- **Syrinx:** A nymph who transformed into reeds to escape Pan's pursuit.
- **Centaurs:** Wild, unruly creatures, part human, part horse.

Day 13: Asclepius, The Nine Muses, Orpheus (pp. 98–105)

- **Asclepius:** Demigod of medicine and healing, later struck down by Zeus for defying the natural order.
- **The Nine Muses:** Goddesses of inspiration for the arts and sciences.
- **Orpheus:** A great musician who attempted to rescue his wife Eurydice from the underworld.

Day 14: Europa & Cadmus, Tantalus & Pelops (pp. 108–113)

- **Europa:** Princess abducted by Zeus in the form of a bull, leading to the founding of Crete.
- **Cadmus:** Europa's brother who founded Thebes after searching for her.
- **Tantalus:** King punished in the Underworld for serving his son as a meal to the gods.
- **Pelops:** Son of Tantalus, resurrected by the gods and later becomes a great hero.

Day 15: Perseus & The Gorgon (pp. 114–122)

- **Perseus:** Hero who slays Medusa and rescues Andromeda.

- **Medusa:** Gorgon whose gaze turns people to stone.
- **Andromeda:** Princess saved by Perseus from a sea monster.

Day 16: Midas, Sisyphus, Bellerophon, Melampus (pp. 124–131)

- **Midas:** King cursed with the ability to turn everything he touches into gold.
- **Sisyphus:** King punished to eternally roll a boulder up a hill for his deceit.
- **Bellerophon:** Hero who tamed Pegasus and defeated the Chimera.
- **Melampus:** A seer who could understand the language of animals.

Day 17 & 18: Heracles (pp. 132–147)

- **Heracles (Hercules):** Greatest Greek hero known for his Twelve Labors, strength, and courage.
- **Nemean Lion:** A lion with impenetrable skin, defeated by Heracles.
- **Hydra:** A serpent-like creature with regenerative heads.
- **Geryon:** A giant with three bodies Heracles defeated during his Labors.
- **Cerberus:** Three-headed dog guarding the entrance to the Underworld.

Day 19 & 20: Theseus, Jason, and the Trojan War (pp. 148–189)

- **Theseus:** Hero who defeats the Minotaur in the Labyrinth and unites Athens.
- **Jason:** Leader of the Argonauts on a quest for the Golden Fleece.
- **Atalanta:** Swift-footed heroine who participates in the Calydonian Boar Hunt.
- **Meleager:** Hunter who awards the prize to Atalanta, sparking conflict.
- **Paris:** Trojan prince whose actions lead to the Trojan War.
- **Helen:** The most beautiful woman in the world, whose abduction starts the war.
- **Achilles:** Greatest Greek warrior of the Trojan War.