Year 7: Myths and Legends home pack

Name: 

Form: 

Teacher: 
An introduction to Greek mythology

This week you will work on understanding the basis of Greek mythology: what the stories focus on and some of the key characters.

You will also develop writing skills in the following areas:

Analysis – ‘What, How’

Creative – Description

Lessons 1 and 2:

Define the following:

Myth –

Legend –

Myths and legends are stories, many of which are popular, that you may have read or watched.

What key things do stories always have? Think about the types of characters, events and how the story is structured. Then list below what you would expect to see. Think back to your first week in school, our key vocabulary and the seven basic plots.
What are Greek myths about?

Read the text below and then summarise what you have learnt.

In ancient Greece, stories about gods and goddesses (The divine) were an important part of everyday life. These myths explained everything from religious rituals to the weather, and they gave meaning to the world people saw around them. Around 700 BC, the poet Hesiod Theogony wrote the first Greek story about the beginning of time: it details the universe's journey from having nothing to being full of life. (This is the text we will be using over the next few weeks.) Later Greek writers used the original stories to build their own myths.

How have the Greek myths influenced our world today?

The characters, stories, themes and lessons within the Greek myths have shaped art and literature for thousands of years. Many modern stories and films are inspired by the events within these Greek myths as they essentially teach life lessons.

If you can, watch the following film clips. Then, write down what you think the characters are like.

Clash of titans - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=XJNenKqmOMU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=XJNenKqmOMU)

Hercules - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvtspevZxpg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvtspevZxpg)

Immortals- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSmJ5UXtUnk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSmJ5UXtUnk)

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R86InkfdboA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R86InkfdboA)
Once you have done that, choose one of the film clips and explain, using the key vocabulary, how it shows some of the key elements of Greek mythology.

**Challenge:** Can you use any of last week’s key vocabulary?

Here are some sentence starters to help you:

*Clash of Titans demonstrates the **divine** within Greek mythology because...*

*It also shows **heroism** when...*
**Why do you think Greek, and various other, myths are popular today?**

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**Think back to the clips you watched earlier. Did they interest you? Why?**

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**Do you already know of any Greek myths?**

**Where did you first hear them?**

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**Who do you think these stories are aimed at today?**

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Lesson 3:

Describe the below images:

These images demonstrate the Greek beliefs about the creation of the world. You are going to read ‘The First Gods’ which describes the creation of the world. Underline any words that you are unsure of as you go. Then make sure you note down their definitions.

**The First Gods**

In the beginning there was only Chaos, the Abyss,
But then Gaia, the Earth, came into being,
Her broad bosom the ever-firm foundation of all,
And Tartaors, dim in the underground depths,
And Eros, loveliest of all the Immortals, who
Makes their bodies go limp,
Mastering their minds and subduing their wills.

From the Abyss were born Erebos and dark Night.
And Night, with Erebos, gave birth to Aether and Day.
Earth’s first child was Ouranos, starry Heaven,
Just her size, a perfect fit on all sides,
And a firm foundation for the blessed gods.
And she bore the Mountaines in long ranges, haunted
By the Nymphs who live in the deep mountain dells.
Then she gave birth to the barren raging Sea.
Later, with Ouranos, she bore Ocean and its deep currents,
And also: Coios, Crios, Hyperion, lapetos,
   Theia, Rheia, Themis, Mnemosyne,
   Gold-crowned Phoibe, and lovely Tehtys.

After them she bore a most terrible child,
Cronos, her youngest, an arch-deceived,
And this boy hated his lecherous father.

*First thoughts:*
What do you think ‘The First Gods’ means?
What does it show the Greeks believed about the creation of the world?

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You are going to go through the text and annotate it answering the following questions:

**What** did the Greeks believe about the creation of the world?

**How** does the text show us this?

There is an example below to help you get started.
Once you have completed your annotations you are going to write an answer to the question below:

**How, in Greek mythology, was the world created?**

You will use these questions to structure your answer.

**What** did the Greeks believe about the creation of the world?

**How** does the text show us this?

A short example has been done for you:

The Greeks believed that the earth was created by Gaia. This is shown in the text as we are told that ‘*In the beginning, there was only Chaos*.’ The use of the *noun* ‘Chaos’ shows that the Greeks believed before Gaia the universe had no order and was simply out of control. This is further shown the *noun* ‘abyss’ suggesting an empty darkness to the universe. Gaia is referred to as the ‘*foundation of all*’. The *noun* ‘foundation’ clearly suggests the Greeks saw Gaia as the strong basis for everything that came after, such as humans and animals.

I have used multiple quotes from the text to explain *how* the text has shown us *what* the Greeks believed. I then explain what each quote *could* mean. This is making inferences.

I have also used subject terminology such as *noun* throughout my answer when explaining the possible meaning of individual word choice.
Now, write your own answer. Use the example to help you but make sure you use different quotes.
Lesson 4-5:

Today you are going to look at three characters from Greek mythology. They are: Zeus, Cronos and Hecate.

One of these characters was mentioned yesterday? Can you remember which one?

There is an extract for each character.
You are going to:
Read the extract
Create a character profile of what the character is like and how you know.

You can format your profile however you like. You may also use more than one quote for how to each what.

There are some example formats below for you.
Cronos

Rhei, birthed a splendid brood:
Hestia and Demeter and gold-sandaled Hera,
Strong, pitiless Hades, the underworld lord,
The booming Earthshaker, Poseidon, and finally
Zeus, a wise god, our Father in heaven
Under whose thunder the wide world trembles.

And Cronos swallowed them all down as soon as each
Issues from Rhei’s holy womb onto her knees,
With the intent that only he among the proud Ouranians
Should hold the title of King among the Immortals.
For he had learned from Earth and starry Heaven
That it was fated for him, powerful though he was,
To be overthrown by his child, through the scheming of Zeus.
Well, Cronos wasn’t blind. He kept a sharp watch
And swallowed his children

Cronos character profile
Hecate

And she bore Hecate, whom Zeus son of Cronos
Has esteemed above all and given splendid gifts,
A share of the earth as her own, and of the barren sea.
She has received a province of starry heaven as well,
And is most highly esteemed by the deathless gods.
For even now when any man upon earth
Sacrifices and prays according to ancestral rites,
He calls upon Hecate and is greatly blessed
If the goddess propitiously receives his prayers,
And riches come to him, for she has the power.
She has a share of the privileges of all the gods
That were ever born of Earth and Heaven.

Hecate character profile
And now Zeus no longer held back his strength.

His lungs seethed with anger and he revealed
All his power. He charged from the sky, hurtling
Down from Olympos in a flurry of lightning,
Hurling thunderbolts one after another, right on target,
From his massive hand, a whirlwind of holy flame.
And the earth that bears like roared as it burned,
And the endless forests crackled in fire,
The continents melted and the Ocean streams boiled,
And the barren sea. The blast of heat enveloped
The chthonian Titans, and the flame reached
The bright stratosphere, and the incandescent rays
Of the thunderbolts and lightning flashes
Blinded their eyes, mighty as they were,
Heat so terrible it engulfed deep Chaos.

The sight of it all
And its sound to the ears was just as if broad Heaven
Had fallen on Earth: the noise of it crashing
And of Earth being crushed would be like the noise
That arose from the strife of the clashing gods.
Winds hissed through the earth, starting off tremors,
And swept dust and thunder and flashing bolts of lightning,
The weapons of Zeus, along with the shouting and din,
Into both sides. Reverberation from the terrible strife
Hung in the air, and sheer Power shone through it.
Now you have completed all of your character profiles, choose one to answer the following question on.

How is the character of (student choice) presented?

Use yesterdays example and questions to help you.

**What** is the character like?

**How** does the text show us this?
Week 2
Lesson 6:

Today you are going to plan for the creation of your own world.
Firstly, list all the different beliefs about the creation of the world that you know.

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You need to focus on:
The creation of the world
The creation of nature and animals
The creation of humans

You can plan in whichever format you want. Mind-maps, story-boards, lists etc.

My plan:
Lesson 7:

Today you get to write up your plan.

Focus on being as descriptive as you possibly can to show me what your world is like.
Lessons 8 and 9:

Today you are going to read the story of Prometheus and Zeus.

I want you to think about how the story is affected by perspective.

Perspective is the point of view from which you see something.

Key vocabulary: Remember to try and use the key vocabulary within any answers this week. The more you use it the more you will understand it!

Symbolism: the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.

Feminine: having qualities or an appearance traditionally associated with women, especially delicacy and prettiness.

Trait: a distinguishing quality or characteristic, typically one belonging to a person.

Stereotype: a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.

Read the story of Prometheus and Zeus. Then answer the following question:

How is Prometheus presented?

What is Prometheus like?

How does the text show us this?

Prometheus and Zeus

“Iapetos’ boy, if you’re not the smartest of them all.
So you still haven’t forgotten your tricks, have you?”
The gods and mortal men were negotiating
At Mecone. Prometheus cheerfully butchered a great ox
And served it up, trying to befuddle Zeus’ wits.
For Zeus he set out flesh and innards rich with fat
Laid out on the oxhide and covered with its paunch.
But for the others he set out the animal’s white bones
Artfully dressed out and covered with shining fat.
And then the Father of the gods and men said to him:

“Son of Iapetos, my celebrated lord,
How unevenly you have divided the portions.”

Thus Zeus, sneering, with imperishable wisdom.
And Prometheus, whose mind was devious,
Smiled softly and remembered his trickery:

“Zeus most glorious, greatest of the everlasting gods,
Choose whichever of these your heart desires.”

This was Prometheus’ trick. But Zeus, eternally wise,
Recognized the fraud and began to rumble in his heart
Trouble for mortals, and it would be fulfilled.
With both hands he picked up the gleaming fat.
Anger seethed in his lungs and bile rose to his heart
When he saw the ox’s white bones artfully tricked out.
And this is why the tribes of men on earth
Burn white bones to the immortals upon smoking altars.
But cloud-herding Zeus was terribly put out, and said:

The story is told by a narrator. They are essentially looking in at the events. I want you to think about the following questions:

What do you think the fire symbolises?

If only gods were allowed it why do you think Prometheus wanted it for humans?

Why do you think it makes Zeus so angry?
How would the story change if it was Prometheus telling the story?

How would the story change if it was Zeus telling the story?

List the events of the story. Then, fill in the table underneath about how the events of the story would be described from each character’s perspective.

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Which perspective do you think is most reliable? The narrator or if it was from Prometheus or Zeus? Why?

Lesson 10:
What do you already know about the story of Pandora?
Read the story of Pandora.

Why do you think Pandora is an important character? Think about her as the cause of all suffering. What does Pandora symbolise?

How is the character of Pandora presented? (What, How)
Focus on her as a feminine character.

How is the character Zeus presented in the extract? (What, How)
Think about his vengeful actions. How does this make the reader feel? Include this in your answer.
Finally, if we think of fire as a symbol for knowledge and strength, do you think that knowledge is damaging?

Remember, according to the extracts, this is what led to all suffering on earth.

**Pandora**

The famous Lame God plastered up some clay

The bees work every day until the sun goes down,

Busy all day long making pale honeycombs,

While the drones stay inside, in the hollow hives,
To look like a shy woman, just like Zeus wanted,
And Athena, the owl-eyed goddess,
Got her all dressed up in silvery clothes
And with her hands draped a veil from her head,
And intricate thing, wonderful to look at.
And Pallas Athene circled her head
With a wreath of luscious springtime flowers
And crowned her with a golden tiara
That the famous Lame God had made himself,
Shaped it by hand to please father Zeus,
Intricately designed and a wonder to look at.
Sea monsters and other fabulous beasts
Crowded the surface, and it sighed with beauty.
And you could almost hear the animals’ voices.

He made this lovely evil to balance the good,
Then led her off to the other gods and men
Gorgeous in the finery of the owl-eyed daughter
Sired in power. And they were stunned,
Immortal gods and mortal men, when they saw
The sheer deception, irresistible to men.
From her is the race of female women,
A great infestation among mortal men,
At home with Wealth but not with Poverty.
It’s the same as with bees in their overhung hives
Feeding the drones, evil conspirators.

Lesson 11:

Would you rather know nothing and be happy or be knowledgeable and suffer?
Based off of both Pandora and Adam and Eve how is femininity presented?
You do not have to write this as a paragraph but just in note form below.

**What** is femininity presented to be like?

**How** do you know?

### Adam and Eve

God took some clay from the ground and made the shape of a man. Then He breathed gently into the shape. The man's eye's opened and he began to live. God called him Adam.
The Lord made a beautiful garden for him to live in. The garden, called Eden, was full of many wonderful things. Beautiful flowers grew everywhere. Birds sang in the trees, streams flowed through the valley and animals roamed across the fields.

God had made the man in His image to keep Him company and look after the world.

God brought all the animals to Adam one at a time to be given their names. "Elephant", he would say, or "Tiger", or "Porcupine".

But God felt sorry for Adam. "None of these animals is really like him," thought God, "he needs someone to share his life. Someone who cares for him and who he can care for."

That night, God took a rib from Adam's side and made a woman. When Adam awoke the following morning, he found a wife, Eve, lying asleep beside him. Adam was so happy. He took her hand and she woke up. She looked up at him and smiled.

God told the man and woman that it was their job to take care of their new home. God blessed them, saying, "All this is for you. Help yourself to anything you like. But never touch the tree in the middle of the Garden. That tree gives knowledge of good and evil. The day you eat its fruit, you will die."

God did not mean that Adam and Eve would drop down dead the moment they ate the fruit from the tree. He meant that in time they would die without His Spirit dwelling in them.

One day, Adam and Eve were gathering berries for dinner when she heard a silky voice behind her.

"Has God told you that you can eat the fruit from all the trees?" the voice asked softly. Eve turned around to see a snake talking to her.

"God has told us we can eat all the fruit except for what grows on The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," Eve told the serpent.

"Oh come now, that's silly! I hardly think such a lovely fruit would do you any harm," the serpent lied. "God knows that if you eat from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you'll become just like God, and will be able to decide for yourself what is right and what is wrong."

The woman looked at the fruit and thought how tasty it looked. She thought how wonderful it would be to be as wise and powerful as God. She believed the serpent's lie and ate the fruit and also gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he took a bite as well.

She felt a strange feeling in the pit of her stomach. She fidgeted and wondered what was wrong with her. Suddenly she realized that she was feeling guilty -- she had disobeyed God and knew she'd done something wrong.

As soon as they ate the fruit a change came over Adam and Eve. They became unhappy and fearful of God.

Adam and Eve heard God calling them. Without thinking, they dived into the bushes, but God knew where they were. When God asked them if they had eaten from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that He had told them not to touch, they blamed each other for their sins.

God was sad that Adam and Eve had disobeyed them. He told them that they had to leave the Garden of Eden, "From now on you'll have to scratch a living from the soil. You'll need to make clothes and grow food. Nothing will come easily -- not even childbirth. And one day, you will die."
Lesson 12:

What would a perfect world look like to you?
You are going to plan a world where we were never cursed with the suffering that Pandora brought. Use the space below to plan. Tomorrow, you will write it up. You should aim for a minimum of three paragraphs.

I want you to make a list of vocabulary that you will aim to use that shows the extreme positivity of the world you’re describing. There are some examples for you.

Word bank:

- Shining
- Bright
- Glorious
- Peaceful

My Plan:

Lessons 13 and 14:

It is now time to write up your plan.

Remember to include:

- Ambitious vocabulary
- Varied punctuation
Varied sentence types

Varied sentence starters

Paragraphs
Heroic stories

Lesson 15

What qualities do we expect to see in a hero?

Why do we expect these?

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Thinking back to the extracts you have read last week, what do you think the Greeks valued in their heroes? Consider the ideas of bravery and masculinity.

Do you think we still have the same values now? Have any changed? Explain your thoughts below.

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Summarise a stereotypical hero.

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Lessons 16 and 17:

What are the different types of narrative?

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How do you think different narratives can affect the telling of the story?

Read ‘The Odyssey’ summary.

Do you think this story fits any of the seven basic plots from the first week? Why?

Read ‘The Odyssey’ extract 1.

Then answer the following:

How is Odysseus presented?

Remember to use the following questions to help you.

What is he like?

How does the text show us this?
Do you think Odysseus represents a stereotypical hero from the first extract? Explain your thoughts below.
The Odyssey: Summary

Ten years have passed since the fall of Troy, and the Greek hero Odysseus still has not returned to his kingdom in Ithaca. A large and rowdy mob of suitors who have overrun Odysseus's palace and pillaged his land continue to court his wife, Penelope. She has remained faithful to Odysseus. Prince Telemachus, Odysseus's son, wants desperately to throw them out but does not have the confidence or experience to fight them. One of the suitors, Antinous, plans to assassinate the young prince, eliminating the only opposition to their dominion over the palace.

Unknown to the suitors, Odysseus is still alive. The beautiful nymph Calypso, possessed by love for him, has imprisoned him on her island, Ogygia. He longs to return to his wife and son, but he has no ship or crew to help him escape. While the gods and goddesses of Mount Olympus debate Odysseus's future, Athena, Odysseus's strongest supporter among the gods, resolves to help Telemachus. Disguised as a friend of the prince's grandfather, Laertes, she convinces the prince to call a meeting of the assembly at which he reproaches the suitors. Athena also prepares him for a great journey to Pylos and Sparta, where the kings Nestor and Menelaus, Odysseus's companions during the war, inform him that Odysseus is alive and trapped on Calypso's island. Telemachus makes plans to return home, while, back in Ithaca, Antinous and the other suitors prepare an ambush to kill him when he reaches port.

On Mount Olympus, Zeus sends Hermes to rescue Odysseus from Calypso. Hermes persuades Calypso to let Odysseus build a ship and leave. The homesick hero sets sail, but when Poseidon, god of the sea, finds him sailing home, he sends a storm to wreck Odysseus's ship. Poseidon has harbored a bitter grudge against Odysseus since the hero blinded his son, the Cyclops Polyphemus, earlier in his travels. Athena intervenes to save Odysseus from Poseidon's wrath, and the beleaguered king lands at Scheria, home of the Phaeacians. Nausicaa, the Phaeacian princess, shows him to the royal palace, and Odysseus receives a warm welcome from the king and queen. When he identifies himself as Odysseus, his hosts, who have heard of his exploits at Troy, are stunned. They promise to give him safe passage to Ithaca, but first they beg to hear the story of his adventures.

Odysseus spends the night describing the fantastic chain of events leading up to his arrival on Calypso's island. He recounts his trip to the Land of the Lotus Eaters, his battle with Polyphemus the Cyclops, his love affair with the witch-goddess Circe, his temptation by the deadly Sirens, his journey into Hades to consult the prophet Tiresias, and his fight with the sea monster Scylla. When
he finishes his story, the Phaeacians return Odysseus to Ithaca, where he seeks out the hut of his faithful swineherd, Eumaeus. Though Athena has disguised Odysseus as a beggar, Eumaeus warmly receives and nourishes him in the hut. He soon encounters Telemachus, who has returned from Pylos and Sparta despite the suitors’ ambush, and reveals to him his true identity. Odysseus and Telemachus devise a plan to massacre the suitors and regain control of Ithaca.

When Odysseus arrives at the palace the next day, still disguised as a beggar, he endures abuse and insults from the suitors. The only person who recognizes him is his old nurse, Eurycleia, but she swears not to disclose his secret. Penelope takes an interest in this strange beggar, suspecting that he might be her long-lost husband. Quite crafty herself, Penelope organizes an archery contest the following day and promises to marry any man who can string Odysseus’s great bow and fire an arrow through a row of twelve axes—a feat that only Odysseus has ever been able to accomplish. At the contest, each suitor tries to string the bow and fails. Odysseus steps up to the bow and, with little effort, fires an arrow through all twelve axes. He then turns the bow on the suitors. He and Telemachus, assisted by a few faithful servants, kill every last suitor.

Odysseus reveals himself to the entire palace and reunites with his loving Penelope. He travels to the outskirts of Ithaca to see his aging father, Laertes. They come under attack from the vengeful family members of the dead suitors, but Laertes, reinvigorated by his son’s return, successfully kills Antinous’s father and puts a stop to the attack. Zeus dispatches Athena to restore peace. With his power secure and his family reunited, Odysseus’s long ordeal comes to an end.
The Odyssey

1.

“Father, son of Cronus, our high and mighty king,
Surely he goes down to a death he earned in full!
Let them all die so, all who do such things.
But my heart breaks for Odysseus,
That seasoned veteran cursed by fate so long-
Far from his loved ones still, he suffers torments
Off on a wave-washed island, and there a goddess makes her home,
Daughter of Atlas, wicked Titan who sounds the deep
In all its depths, whose shoulders lift on high
The colossal pillars thrusting earth and sky apart.
Atlas’ daughter it is who hold Odysseus captive,
Luckless man- despite his tears, forever trying
To spellbind his heart with suave, seductive words
And wipe all thought of Ithaca from his mind.
But he, straining for no more than a glimpse
Of hearth-smoke drifting up from his own land,
Odysseys longs to die...
Lesson 18:
What would you expect from a character described as:

Masculine –

Feminine –

Do you think either of these expectations have changed over time? How have they changed and why?

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Read ‘The Odyssey’ extracts 3, 4 and 5.
What do you think of Penelope? She has waited for Odysseus to return for a very long time. How does this make us feel?

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How is the presentation of Penelope different to that of Pandora? Consider which is seen as a more positive character. Why do you think this is?
The Odyssey extracts

3.
He knew how to say many false things that were like true sayings.
As she listened her tears ran and her body was melted,
As the snow melts along the high places of the mountains
When the West Wind has piled it there, but the South Wind melts it,
As it melts the rivers run full flood. It was even
So that her beautiful cheeks were streaming tears, as Penelope
Wept for her man, who was sitting there by her side.
But Odysseus
In his heart had pity for his wife as she mourned him,
But his eyes stayed, as if they were made of horn or iron,
Steady under his lids. He hid his tears and deceived her.
But when she had taken her fill of tearful lamentation,
Then she answered him once again and spoke and addressed him:
“Now, my friend, I think I will give you a test...”

4.
“...we shall find other ways, and better,
To recognise each other, for we have signs that we know of
Between the two of us only, but they are secret from others.”
So she spoke, and much-enduring noble Odysseus
Smiled, and presently spoke in winged words to Telemachus

5.
So he spoke, and her knees and the heart within her went slack
As she recognized the clear proofs that Odysseus had given;
But then she burst into tears and ran straight to him, throwing
Her arms around the neck of Odysseus, and kissed his head.
Lessons 19 and 20:
Re-cap Odysseus’ journey.
What were some of the key events?

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You are going to plan a journey of your own that you will then write about tomorrow.
Use the storyboard below to plan how your journey will start, any events that will happen as it progresses, and how it will end.
Lessons 21 and 22

Take a few minutes to re-look at your story-board plan. Is there a clear journey?

You have today to write up your journey. Consider if you want it to be a first person narrative (I – you are the one on the journey and telling the story) or third (They/character name – like someone is watching them).