Name _____
English I, Sect. _____

Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of the Greek Myths
Summer Reading Comprehension Questions

Directions
Read the assigned stories in Bernard Evslin's *Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of the Greek Myths* and respond to the questions below. Please write in complete sentences, and please be sure to answer all parts of the question.

Study tip: Make note of the page in the text where you find the answer to a given question.

Pro tip: Use direct quotations from the text to support your answers.

THE GODS

Zeus (p. 3–5)

1. Who is Zeus's father? Why does he eat his children?

2. How does Rhea save Zeus?

3. How does Zeus become leader of the gods?

4. Who are Zeus's allies in the fight against Cronos and the Titans?

5. What happens to Cronos and the Titans?

6. What explanation is given for the origin of the word *panic*?

7. What natural disasters are thought to be connected with Cronos and the Titans?

Hera (p. 6–7)

1. Why is Hera frustrated with Zeus?

2. How does Hera rebel against Zeus? What are the consequences of her actions?

3. Why does Hera promise to not rebel again?

4. How many children do Zeus and Hera have together? Who are they?

Athene (p. 8–14)

1. Describe Athene's birth using details from the text.

2. What does Athene teach men? What does she teach women?

3. Why is Athene jealous of Arachne?

4. Explain how the two tapestries differ. Include details about the materials used to construct the tapestries as well as the images depicted in the tapestries.

5. What is the outcome of the contest between Athene and Arachne?

6. What complexities does this story reveal about Athene's personality?

Poseidon (p. 15–18)

1. Why does Poseidon want control of the sea?

2. Why does Poseidon decide to not have children with Thetis?

3. Why do the people of Athens fear Poseidon?

4. How does Poseidon try to woo Demeter?

5. Who/What is Arion?

6. What information is revealed in the final paragraph of this section?

Hades (p. 19–21)

1. Who is Charon?

2. Why were the Greeks buried with a coin under their tongues?

3. What is Cerberus?

4. What are Tantalus's and Sisyphus's punishments?

5. Who are the Furies? Why does Hades value them?

6. Why is Hades fit to rule the Underworld?

Demeter (p. 22–30)

1. What is Demeter the goddess of?

2. Who steals Persephone? Explain how and why she enters the Underworld.

3. Why does Zeus finally decide to intervene and reunite Persephone and her mother? What is the condition of her release?

4. What effect does Persephone's absence have on the crops?

5. Describe the garden helper Hades gives to Persephone. Why is he important? When else has he appeared in the myth?

6. Why must Persephone spend six months in the Underworld?

Artemis (p. 32–36)

1. Why does Zeus withhold Artemis's gifts? What are the three gifts he grants her?

2. What gifts does Artemis acquire? Where must she travel to attain her gifts?

3. What does she hit with her four silver arrows?

4. How does she deal with others who disobey her wishes?

Apollo (p. 37–39)

1. What does Apollo look like?

2. What Apollo is the god/patron of?

3. What does he do immediately after receiving his bow and arrow?

4. What does Apollo do to atone for his actions at Delphi?

5. What happens to Marsyas?

Hermes (p. 45–49)

1. What does *precocious* mean?

2. What does Hermes do five minutes after being born?

3. How does Hermes acquire Apollo's golden staff?

4. How does Hermes become Zeus's herald?

5. Describe Hermes's attire.

6. What does Hermes convince Zeus to do when he is bored on Olympus?

Hephaestus (p. 50–51)

1. What are Hephaestus's skills?

2. Why does Hera hurl Hephaestus off of Olympus?

3. Who is Thetis? Why does she care for Hephaestus?

4. How and why does Hera reconnect with her son?

5. What is Hephaestus the patron of?

Aphrodite (p. 52–54)

1. What is Aphrodite the goddess of?

2. List the gods who propose to Aphrodite along with what each one offers her.

3. Whom does Aphrodite decide to marry? Why?

4. What do we learn in the final paragraph of her story? What does this reveal about Aphrodite's personality?

NATURE MYTHS

Prometheus (p. 57–60)

1. What type of god is Prometheus? What might that suggest about his relationship with Zeus and the Olympian gods? (Tip: reread the Zeus story on p. 3–5.)

2. Define *beard* in the following sentence: "Although he knew the great lord of the sky hated explicit questions, he did not hesitate to beard him when there was something he wanted to know."

3. What question does Prometheus ask Zeus which challenges Zeus's authority and manner of thinking?

4. Why does Zeus withhold fire from humankind?

5. Why does Prometheus feel that humankind should have fire?

6. Explain Zeus's reason for withholding fire from humankind in terms of Zeus and the other Olympians remaining powerful.

7. What is humankind's first reaction to fire?

8. How does Prometheus convince humans to keep the gift he has brought them?

9. What does humankind ultimately do with fire?

10. What is Zeus's reaction to this progress?

11. How does Zeus punish Prometheus?

12. Which god creates the chains that are used to bind Prometheus? Why would this make sense?

13. Who ultimately frees Prometheus?

14. Prometheus is often referred to as the "protector of humankind." Why do you think this is so?

Pandora (p. 61–64)

1. How is Pandora created? Be sure to use Hephaestus and Aphrodite in your answer.

2. Why is Pandora created?

3. What gifts does Pandora receive from each of the gods and goddesses?
    a. Apollo:
    b. Athene:
    c. Aphrodite:
    d. Poseidon:
    e. Hermes:
    f. Hera:

4. What is special about Hermes's gift?

5. Who is Epimetheus?

6. How does Hermes explain the gift of Pandora to Epimetheus?

7. How does Pandora try to remove the temptation of the box?

8. Describe the creatures that fly from the box?

9. What do those creatures represent?

10. What is Pandora able to catch and capture inside the box? Why is that so important?

11. What does this myth tell us about Zeus?

Phaethon (p. 65–76)

1. Who are Epaphus and Phaethon, and who are their fathers?

2. What does Phaethon tell Epaphus he will do to prove that he is driving the sun chariot?

3. Reread Apollo's response to the report that Phaethon is passed out and vulnerable to a wolf attack. When the sun hawks ask Apollo if he cares about Phaethon's dire predicament, Apollo responds, "I will have to see him before I know whether I care" (Evslin 66). What does Apollo's response tell us about him?

4. What does Apollo swear on and why?

5. What is Apollo's advice to Phaethon? What causes Phaethon to not follow his father's advice?

6. What happens to the village?

7. What other disasters happen because the horses do not return to the path?

8. What causes Zeus to get involved? What does he do to stop the destruction?

9. What lessons does the myth teach to both the ancient and modern audiences? (Among other things, consider the roles of bragging, boasting, and lying.)

10. What natural phenomena are explained in this myth?

Narcissus and Echo (p. 87–94)

1. Define *narcissism.*

2. What does Aphrodite want to do for Echo and why?

3. Who is Narcissus? Why does he have such a high opinion of himself?

4. What is Zeus doing in Echo's woods?

5. What does Echo do for Zeus?

6. Who punishes Echo and what is the punishment?

7. What is Echo's reaction to Narcissus? Why does he become so angry and frustrated with Echo?

8. What does Echo ask for from Aphrodite? How does Aphrodite answer her prayers?

9. What is Aphrodite's vengeance on behalf of Echo?

10. Who is the face in the pond? Who is the voice of the face?

11. What happens to Narcissus?

12. What natural phenomena does the myth explain?

13. What lessons do you think the myth taught to the ancients who listened to it?

14. What do we learn about the personalities of Hera, Zeus, and Aphrodite in this myth?

DEMIGODS

Daedalus (p. 142–152)

1. How does Athene teach humankind the arts they needed to know?

2. What is Daedalus's occupation?

3. What happens when Daedalus takes his nephew Talos to Athene's temple? Why?

4. After Athene withdraws her favor from Daedalus, where does he go?

5. What is Pasiphae's opinion of the gods? Besides Daedalus, who hears what she says?

6. What is Minos's favorite animal? Why?

7. What does Pasiphae ask Daedalus to do for her?

8. Why does the baby borne by Pasiphae attract a great deal of notice?

9. Describe the Labyrinth that Minos orders Daedalus to construct.

10. What does Icarus suggest Daedalus build to help them escape the Labyrinth? How does Daedalus go about making what they need?

11. What advice does Daedalus offer Icarus as they ready for their departure?

12. Compare and contrast Icarus and Phaethon. How are their stories similar? What sets them apart from each other?

13. Make a list of three important morals or lessons that the story of Daedalus and Icarus might hold for its audience.

FABLES

Midas (p. 203–208)

1. What is Midas's favorite thing?

2. Explain Midas's dislike of Apollo.

3. What is Midas's wish? What are the consequences of his wish?

4. How does Apollo punish Midas for his foolishness?

5. Why does Apollo change Midas's ears a second time?

6. What is the moral of this story? What can we learn from Midas's tale?

Pygmalion (p. 209–217)

1. Why does Pygmalion's lifestyle anger the women of Cyprus?

2. What statues does he sell? How are they priced?

3. Why does Aphrodite demand that Pygmalion marry?

4. How does Pygmalion delay his upcoming marriage?

5. Whom does Pygmalion choose as his wife?

6. Why does Aphrodite decide to honor Pygmalion's request for a wife?

7. What does this myth reveal about Pygmalion's and Aphrodite's personalities?