

## Discussion Board Samples

Thread 1.1: September 02, 2014

Forum: Introduce Yourself

*Prompt:*

After watching the Video called "Introduction to Myth," please introduce yourselves on this discussion board by responding to the following prompts:

1. What is your name, and where do you live? Are you in Lawrence? Far away from Lawrence?
2. When was the last time you encountered Greek mythology? Was it in a class in high school? At another college? At the movie theater? In a favorite graphic novel? Please share your answer in a few sentences.

*Response Sample 1:*

Hello, my name is [N.], I live in Topeka.

The last time I encountered an aspect of Greek mythology was probably at home a couple of months ago when I watched the second Percy Jackson movie. It was certainly an... interesting vision of Greek myth.

*Response Sample 2:*

Hi-

I am [Name]. I have lived in Manhattan, KS for the last three years. However, I am currently moving to the Lawrence area.

I believe the last time I encountered Greek mythology was when I was watching Wrath of the Titans. However, I recently told the story of Icarus to my niece and nephew.

Thread 7.2: November 11, 2014

Forum: Week 12: Ovid's Metamorphoses

*Prompt:*

In Books 1-5 of Ovid's Metamorphoses, we see many divinities doling out punishments, or consequences, for various offenses. Choose a passage that is describing such a punishment/offense and analyze it. Is the punishment justified? Is it fair? How does this anecdote relate to the narratives surrounding it?

*Response Sample 1:*

In Book 2, Callisto, Jupiter takes advantage of Callisto and gets her pregnant (Book 2, page 46). In turn, she is released from Diana because she is no longer a virgin (Book 2, line 519). Not only does she have to endure this, but she is also turned into a bear by Juno (Book 2, lines 532-553). Personally, I do not think that this punishment is justified because Callisto struggled against Jupiter and it was he who chose her. Her only offense was being a beautiful virgin. I think this eludes to the way women may have been treated in this time, and to show Jupiter and Juno's attitudes and personality.

*Response Sample 2:*

In book three, there are many divinities doling out punishment. I would like to point out the way in which Diana punished Actaeon in book 3. Actaeon while hunting in the woods stumble upon Diana and her nymphs bathing. Diana has her maids cover her, but Actaeon has seen her. She becomes enraged and ensures that he his “tongue” won’t live to tell the “tale”. She punishes him by turning him into a stag, which in turn, his hounds attack.

“Soon as he entered where the clear springs welled or trickled from the grotto's walls, the nymphs, now ready for the bath, beheld the man, smote on their breasts, and made the woods resound, suddenly shrieking... so appeared Diana's countenance when she was seen” (Ovid’s *Metamorphosis* Book 3: Etext: Lines 184-186)

“Oh, how she wished her arrows were at hand! But only having water, this she took and dashed it on his manly countenance, and sprinkled with the avenging stream his hair, and said these words, presage of future woe; “Go tell it, if your tongue can tell the tale, your bold eyes saw me stripped of all my robes.” No more she threatened, but she fixed the horns of a great stag firm on his sprinkled brows; she lengthened out his neck; she made his ears sharp at the top; she changed his hands and feet; made long legs of his arms, and covered him with dappled hair—his courage turned to fear.” (Ovid’s *Metamorphosis* Book 3: Etext: Lines 187-193)

First of all, I don’t think any kind of “revenge” is justified. However, Diana appears dramatic and vindictive. It does not appear fair, Actaeon did not mean to intrude their bathing, he was merely wandering through the woods on a hunt. This hardly gives her cause to act in such a dramatic and vindictive way.

This story follows in the footsteps of other revenges that seem to plague other members of the house of Cadmus.