

GRADE 6, MODULE 1: UNIT 2 OVERVIEW
MYTHS: NOT JUST LONG AGO

*** This unit is being released in two batches. Below please find the lessons through the mid-unit assessment. Please check back some time after March 25 for the second half of the unit. ***

Unit 2: Elements and Theme of Mythology in *The Lightning Thief*

In this second unit of module 1, students will delve deeply into mythology: its purpose, elements, and themes that align with themes in *The Lightning Thief*. While they continue to read *The Lightning Thief* independently, students will closely read multiple myths from *D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths*. In the first half of the unit, they will use the informational text “Key Elements of Mythology” to better understand the elements and themes of the myths they read. In their mid-unit assessment, students will read the myth of Prometheus and write an analytical mini-essay identifying the elements of mythology present in the myth, describing a theme of the myth, and explaining how key

details contribute to the theme. In the second half of the unit, students will read, think, talk, and write the myths alluded to in *The Lightning Thief*. They will determine the themes of myths and how the themes align with themes in the novel. As students build toward writing a literary analysis, the teacher will model writing skills using the myth of . Students practice these skills using myths they are reading in small, expert groups. For their end of unit assessment, students will write a literary analysis summarizing the myth of “Cronus,” identifying a common theme between the myth of “Cronus” and *The Lightning Thief*, and explaining why the author chose to include this myth in the novel.

<p>GUIDING QUESTIONS AND BIG IDEAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What makes a myth?</i> • <i>Why do myths matter?</i> • All stories have universal elements and themes.
<p>MID-UNIT 2 ASSESSMENT:</p>	<p><i>Analytical Mini-Essay about Elements and Theme of the Myth of Prometheus</i></p> <p>This assessment centers on NYSP12 ELA CCLS RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RI.6.1, W.6.2, and W.6.9. For this assessment, students will write an analytical “mini-essay” responding to the following prompts: “What are significant elements of mythology in the story of ‘Prometheus’? Explain how elements of mythology contained in the plot make ‘Prometheus’ a classic myth.” “What is an important theme in the myth of ‘Prometheus’? What key details from the myth contribute to this theme?”</p> <p>Students will have read and discussed the myth “Prometheus” in class as well as an informational text about the “Key Elements of Mythology.” They will use recording forms to collect important details. Their “mini-essay” will contain two body paragraphs (one about the elements of myth that they see in “Prometheus” and one a theme of the myth) plus a one-sentence introduction and a brief conclusion to explain how an element of mythology connects to a theme of the myth. The reading standards assessed center around citing textual evidence from both the literary text “Prometheus” and the informational text “Key Elements of Mythology.” Students also are assessed on their ability to determining of a theme of a literary text. The reading standards could be assessed through the graphic organizer alone, or verbally, if necessary. This is both a reading and writing assessment.</p>



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**END OF UNIT 2
ASSESSMENT:**

Literary Analysis—Theme of Cronus and Allusion in The Lightning Thief

This assessment has two parts. Students will write a literary analysis responding to the following prompts: “How does the allusion to the myth of “Cronus” contribute to a theme in *The Lightning Thief*? After reading the myth of “Cronus” and the novel *The Lightning Thief*, write a literary analysis that summarizes the myth, describes how the theme is communicated in the myth, describes how the theme is communicated in *The Lightning Thief*, and explains how the myth contributes to the theme in the novel. You will have the opportunity to discuss the reading and your thinking with your partner before writing independently.” This is primarily a writing assessment, it is not intended to assess students’ reading of a myth. Discussion is intentionally built in as a scaffold toward writing. Part 1 of the assessment is students’ best on-demand draft, and centers on NYSP12 ELA CCLS W.6.2 and W.6.9. This draft will be assessed before students have the opportunity for peer or teacher feedback so that their skill in writing can be observed. Part 2 is students’ final draft, revised after peer and teacher feedback. Part 2 adds standard W.6.5.

**CONTENT
CONNECTIONS**

- This module is designed to address English Language Arts standards. However, the module intentionally incorporates Social Studies content that many teachers may be teaching during other parts of the day. These intentional connections are described below.

**NYS SOCIAL
STUDIES CORE
CURRICULUM:**

- 6.6 Classical civilizations developed and grew into large empires characterized by powerful centralized governments, advanced commerce and trade systems, and complex social hierarchies. The scientific and cultural achievements of these civilizations continue to impact the world today.
- 6.6.a The classical era was marked by an increase in the number and size of civilizations.
- 6.6.b Classical civilizations maintained social order through various political systems that corresponded to the values of their citizens.
- 6.6.f Ancient civilizations made scientific, cultural, and political discoveries that have shaped our understanding of the world today.
- 6.7 Major religions and belief systems developed as civilizations grew, which unified societies, but also became a major source of tension and conflict.
- 6.7.a Belief systems and religions are sets of mutual values that help to explain the way the world and humanity work.
- 6.7.b Over time, civilizations developed belief systems and religions that differed across place but shared similar themes.
- 6.7.c Belief systems and religions unify groups of people and are woven into the social organization of societies.



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CENTRAL TEXTS

1. Rick Riordan, *The Lightning Thief* (New York: Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, 2005), ISBN: 0-7868-3865-5.
2. Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire, *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths* (New York: Delacorte Press, 1962), ISBN: 0-440-4069-3
3. "Key Elements of Mythology" Written by Expeditionary Learning for instructional purposes