

Mythic Makers: Crafting the Hero's Journey

Subject: Arts: Practical Arts, Language Arts, History

Grade Level: 4th Grade (Homeschool)

Topic: Greek Mythology & The Hero's Journey

Materials Needed:

- Large piece of sturdy cardboard (for shield) OR Large sheet of construction paper/butcher paper (for scroll) OR Square piece of cardboard/heavy paper (for mosaic tile)
- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors (safety scissors recommended)
- Glue stick or liquid glue
- Markers, crayons, or paint
- Optional: Yarn, glitter, foil, tissue paper squares, small pebbles/beans (for mosaic)
- Simple summaries or picture book versions of Greek myths (e.g., Perseus and Medusa, Theseus and the Minotaur, The Labors of Heracles)
- Optional: Simple graphic of the Hero's Journey stages

Lesson Procedure:

1. Introduction: What Makes a Hero? (10 mins)

- Start with a fun discussion: "What makes someone a hero? Think about stories you know or movies you've seen. What challenges do heroes face?"
- Introduce the idea that many hero stories, even ancient Greek ones, follow a similar pattern called the 'Hero's Journey'. It's like a roadmap for adventure!

2. Exploring the Journey & Greek Myths (15 mins)

- Briefly explain simplified stages of the Hero's Journey: 1. The Call to Adventure (Leaving the ordinary world), 2. The Trials/Challenges (Facing monsters, solving riddles, overcoming obstacles), 3. The Return/Triumph (Coming home changed, often with a reward or new wisdom). Use simple icons or drawings if helpful.
- Read or summarize a chosen Greek hero's story (Perseus is a great example). Pause to point out how the story fits the Hero's Journey stages. (e.g., "Perseus gets the call to get Medusa's head. That's his Call to Adventure!")
- Discuss: What objects were important to the hero? (e.g., Perseus's shield, Heracles' club, Theseus's thread). What monsters or challenges did they face?

3. Brainstorming Your Mythic Art (10 mins)

- Ask the student: "Which Greek hero's journey seemed most exciting to you? Or which part of the journey (the call, a specific trial, the return) do you find interesting?"
- Decide on the practical art project:
 - **Hero's Shield:** Design a shield showing symbols of the hero, a monster they faced, or an object they used. (Use cardboard base).
 - **Story Scroll:** Draw key scenes from the hero's journey in sequence on a long piece of paper. Roll it up like an ancient scroll.
 - **Mythic Mosaic Tile:** Use small squares of paper, tissue paper, or even pebbles/beans to create a mosaic image of a character or symbol from the myth on a cardboard square.
- Encourage sketching a quick plan or discussing ideas for the chosen project. What symbols,

colors, or scenes will represent the hero or their journey?

4. Creation Station: Mythic Making! (30-40 mins)

- Provide the materials. Let the student cut, draw, glue, paint, and assemble their chosen art piece.
- Offer guidance and ask questions like, "How does that color represent the hero's courage?" or "What part of the journey does this picture show?"
- Play some instrumental music (perhaps something dramatic or 'epic') to set the mood.

5. Show & Tell: The Hero's Return (10 mins)

- Have the student present their creation.
- Ask them to explain: "Tell me about your artwork. Which hero does it represent? What part of their Hero's Journey are you showing? Why did you choose these symbols or colors?"
- Celebrate their work and understanding! Display the finished piece proudly.

Differentiation:

- **Support:** Provide pre-cut shapes or templates (e.g., shield outline, scroll borders). Focus on just one key moment or symbol instead of the whole journey. Use a very simple myth.
- **Challenge:** Encourage adding more detailed symbols or scenes. Ask the student to write short captions for their scroll or the back of their shield/mosaic explaining the symbolism. Compare the journeys of two different heroes.