



# MYTHOLOGY

## Rationale

This mythology unit has been prepared to provide the sixth grade G/T teacher with the tools and resources to teach a mythology unit. Presently (6/10/2003) the middle school GT English curriculum does not include a focused study on Greek mythology, though *Ulysses* is taught during the sixth grade year. Because of the *Ulysses* unit and the definite need that the students become well-versed in Greek mythology, this unit should be taught early in the first six weeks after archetypes have been discussed and students have begun their personal quests by writing their own goals. Mythology continues to demonstrate the archetypes which have been discussed in *Star Wars*, *The Lion King*, and other stories and movies. As one teacher has put it, “I tell my students that they need to know the Bible, Shakespeare, mythology, and humanities to succeed in the future as a GT student.” The following link: <http://titan.sfasu.edu/~beenet/resources/heromain.html> provides a strong and in-depth discussion of the concept of archetypes. We strongly urge the teacher to follow this link before the archetype discussion.

Many teachers have seen the need to teach a focused study of mythology, since none was originally included in the sixth GT English curriculum. Thus, teachers may already have a wealth of information and many strategies for teaching Greek and Roman mythology. Therefore, we are including in this section internet links for maps, lists of gods and goddesses, myths, instructional strategies, and suggested products for the teacher/students to choose from. We have not included Webquests or TrackStar lessons since they change so often and the links do not always work. We feel strongly that students should be able to pass an objective test about the gods and goddesses and about the important myths of Greece and Rome as well as enjoy their study through the products created. Mythology is such an integral part of a well-educated student, and he will encounter mythological allusions in all future English classes and in humanities in middle school and high school.

Teachers should feel free to pull from this unit to supplement their own units, while some teachers may wish to include much of the information and the activities included. Whatever studies are done, the teacher should help the students tie mythology to the theme “The Quest”. Mythology is man’s quest for spirituality, for purpose, for answers to life’s questions of Why? How? and Who Am I?