Myths & Legends

Course Description:

The curriculum from the course is developed from the [Wisconsin Standards for English Language Arts](#). It is an introductory elective course worth .5 English credits. Students will be exposed to and practice skills related to: reading literature, reading informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Grades are determined by quizzes, tests, discussions, projects and daily work. In Myths and Legends we examine myths from around the world, especially those from Greco Roman, Norse, Native American, and Middle Eastern traditions. We will focus especially on the ways in which these stories give insight into the human condition, our understanding of the supernatural, and the continued impact these myths have on the world in which we live. The information in this course overview outlines what students should understand and be able to do by the end of the trimester.

Mastery Standards:

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (RL.11-12.1)

Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. (RL.11-12.2)

Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature. (RL.9-10.6)

Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. (SL.11-12.1)

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks. (SL.11-12.4)

Unit	Description of Unit and Learning Targets
Unit Title: Introduction to Mythology Essential Questions: ● What is the relevance of myths in the world in which we live today?	Learning Targets: ● gain an understanding of the purpose of studying mythology and important terminology as part of the course ● understand the relevance of mythology to the vocabulary, culture, and storytelling of the modern world ● draw connections between mythology of the past and modern myths that drive society (laws, finances, norms, practices)
Unit Title: Creation: How did we get here? Essential Questions: ● Why are cosmogonical myths integral to cultures worldwide?	Learning Targets: ● make connections between the creation stories of multiple cultures ● make assertions on the values and morals of said cultures and support these claims with evidence from a text ● draw parallels between ancient stories of creation and modern scientific theories
Unit Title: Explaining the World/Floods Essential Questions: ● What differences in cultures' mythic explanations can be attributed to geographical, historic, societal or other factors?	Learning Targets: ● gain an understanding of archetype and its relevance to the "great flood" stories prevalent in cultures around the world ● continue drawing parallels between cultures understanding of an archetypal flood story
Unit Title: Tricksters, transgressors, and thieves Essential Questions: ● How do archetypes that exist across all cultures allow people to better understand those of different backgrounds?	Learning Targets: ● continue analysis of tricksters and compare trickster archetypes from around the world ● develop strong discussion skills in analyzing complex stories from multiple cultures ● draw personal connections between an archetypal figure and their own actions
Unit Title: Hero's Journey Essential Questions: ● By what standards is an individual judged as heroic?	Learning Targets: ● understand the Hero's Journey theories of Joseph Campbell and be able to apply them the stories of the past, present, and their own lives ● analyze the qualities that define heroism for cultures of the past as well as today ● develop group projects/practice multimedia formats and presentation skills