Writing a Greek Myth

Elements of Greek Myths:

| Gods and goddesses are central characters | Gods and goddesses have special powers | A natural phenomenon, occurrence, or event is explained by the myth | A lesson is taught or a cultural or moral value is explained through the myth | Gods and goddesses interact with mortals | Gods and goddesses display jealous, vengeful, and otherwise human behaviors | Gods and goddesses play tricks on mortals and one another |

Think about the ways that the Greeks used mythology to explain what they did not understand. For example, some myths explained why animals behaved in certain ways, while others tell why natural events like seasons, or weather occurred. In some myths, the gods play tricks on mortals to teach them lessons, usually about morals that were valuable to the culture. Now that you're an "expert" on Greek mythology, it's time to write a myth of your own.

Imagine that you're an ancient Greek man or woman who fell asleep one night at the base of Mt. Olympus in the year 800 B.C.E. (Before the Common Era), only to awake and find yourself in modern day Canada. Look around. What do you see? What are some things you don't understand? Is there anything so strange and so confusing that the gods must be responsible for it? Think about the different geographical features and animal species you will find. Maybe there is a current event that is puzzling you. Consider technology and modern architecture. How are people traveling from one place to the next? Brainstorm some ideas that might be explained by a myth. Be prepared to share your thoughts with the class.

And now for the fun part! Select a topic and write a myth to explain it. The first step in this process is to plan your myth using a story map, or in this case, a myth map. Decide which Greek gods and goddesses will be characters in your myth. You may invent the mortals or use real people from history. Be creative with your ideas, but remember to be historically accurate as well. For example, Zeus was the king of the gods in ancient Greek mythology so he must be
the king of the gods in your myth as well. However, you may chose to "update" the gods and goddesses and assign new powers to each. It is doubtful, after all, that the ancient Greeks needed a god of the internet. They did, however, have a messenger god named Hermes, who was responsible for communicating with the underworld. Maybe in modern times he would have some new responsibilities. Once you have completed your myth map, you are ready to write... almost. Be sure to check in with me at this point.
MYTH MAP

Title: __________________________________________

Setting: 

Characters: 

Problem: 

Goal: (What does your myth explain?)

Event #1

Event #2

Event #3

Resolution:
Ready, set, write! Be sure that your myth follows your story map. When you have finished your first draft, share it with a partner. This is an important time for you and your partner to ask one another questions and offer constructive feedback about your myths.

Now it is back to the drawing board. Revise, revise, revise. Does your story make sense? Think about suggestions or ideas you got from your partner. Is there anything you want to add to your piece? Is there anything you want to change or take out? Have you used interesting vocabulary and varied sentence structure? Now is the time to consult your rubric. Have you included everything necessary? If so, you are ready to publish. Your final copy should be typed and edited for spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Finally, add illustrations appropriate to your myth and you are ready to share your final product.

Partner I shared with: ______________________________________

Suggestions for improvement:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Final Project to include:
- Myth map
- Rough draft with suggestions for improvement
- Final copy, typed with illustrations
- rubric
Evaluation

The following is a rubric to help guide you as you complete the task of composing a myth of your own. Upon completion of the project you will use the rubric to assess yourself and your teacher will use it to help determine your final grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elements of Myth</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Myth contains few elements specific to ancient Greek myths and offers a weak explanation for something.</td>
<td>Myth contains some elements specific to ancient Greek myths and offers a vague explanation of something.</td>
<td>Myth contains several elements specific to ancient Greek myths and offers an explanation of something.</td>
<td>Myth contains most elements specific to ancient Greek myths and offers a logical explanation of something.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of Myth</td>
<td>Few or irrelevant illustrations, overall sloppy appearance.</td>
<td>Limited illustrations, minimal effort and creativity exhibited.</td>
<td>Good presentation, overall neat presentation.</td>
<td>Creative and relevant illustrations, excellent overall presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character Development</td>
<td>Characters are poorly developed through vague description with no dialogue. Gods and goddesses are included.</td>
<td>Characters are developed through vague description and minimal dialogue. Their actions and the actions/reactions of others are somewhat explained. Gods and goddesses are central characters.</td>
<td>Most characters are fully developed through description and dialogue. Their actions and the actions/reactions of others are explained. Gods and goddesses are central characters.</td>
<td>All characters are fully developed through vivid description and dialogue. Their actions and the actions/reactions of others are clearly explained. Gods and goddesses are central characters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plot</td>
<td>Contains no background information about characters or setting. The central conflict is not fully explained or resolved.</td>
<td>Contains minimal background information about characters and setting. The central conflict is somewhat explained and resolved.</td>
<td>Contains background information about characters and setting. There is a central conflict which is adequately explained and resolved.</td>
<td>Contains detailed background information about characters and setting. There is a central conflict which is fully explained and resolved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling, Grammar, and Punctuation</td>
<td>Writing contains many spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.</td>
<td>Writing contains some spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.</td>
<td>Writing contains few, minor spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.</td>
<td>Writing is free of spelling, grammar and punctuation errors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>