

Mythology Questions

Chapters 7-12

Answer the following in complete sentences and restate the question in your answer. Use the recurring topics that we discussed last semester to help you answer some of these. These topics are posted on my website.

Chapter 7

1. At the beginning of chapter 7, how does the story of Ino, Phrixus, and Helle show that the Greek stories about human sacrifice began to change? Consider the original reasons the prehistoric agrarian tribes resorted to human sacrifice and compare them to the events of the story.
2. Why does King Æetes want to kill Jason? Why doesn't he? (Relate your answer to one of the recurring topics).
3. Discuss three ways Medea helps Jason. Among these three, list at least one horrible deed she does.
4. At the end of the chapter, are Medea's actions justified? Discuss specifically what actions are justified or not and why.

Chapter 8

5. What trait do the characters of Phaethon, Bellerophon, Otus and Ephialtes, and Icarus all have in common? (Hint: it's in the list of recurring topics). Discuss how each of them exhibits this trait and how they pay for it.

Chapter 9

6. What does the story of King Acrisius and Danaë reveal about the wickedness of killing family? Use details from the story to explain.
7. What does the story of Acrisius tell about the consequences of tampering with fate? Consider the role of the oracle in the story, and also consider how the story ends.
8. How do Athena and Hermes help Perseus? Detail some of the specific ways each of them helps him.
9. How does the story of Andromeda and Cassiopeia relate to the topics of hubris and human sacrifice?

Chapter 10

10. How did Theseus travel to Athens and why? Be specific and explain what he was trying to accomplish.
11. How did the Aegean Sea get its name? Explain the actions that led up to it.
12. How did Theseus organize the government of Athens?
13. What was Theseus's weakness? How did it get him in trouble with Hades? How did he get out of trouble?

Chapter 11

14. Describe Hercules's first heroic act, which he performed before he was a year old.
15. How did Theseus save Hercules's life? What were the circumstances?
16. How does hospitality play a role in the story Hercules visiting Adrastus? How does Hercules make amends in this story?
17. How did Hercules die, and who was his armor bearer at the end?

Chapter 12

18. Why was Atalanta so skilled as a hunter? Begin with her father's role.
19. Who finally married Atalanta, and how did he win her?