

# **GREEK MYTHS**

Imitation in Writing Series  
Book 3

Matt Whitling

Logos School Materials  
Moscow, Idaho

## IMITATION IN WRITING

This *Greek Myths* text is the third book in a growing series of Imitation in Writing materials designed to teach aspiring writers the art and discipline of crafting delightful prose and poetry.

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**Greek Myths**  
Greek Heroes  
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Logos School Materials  
110 Baker Street, Moscow, Idaho 83843  
Toll Free 866-562-2174  
[www.logosschool.com](http://www.logosschool.com) or [logosschool@turbonet.com](mailto:logosschool@turbonet.com)

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Matt Whitling  
Moscow, Idaho

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# Imitation In Writing

## GREEK MYTHS

### Background:

We are commanded in Scripture to imitate the Lord Jesus Christ. We are also commanded to imitate those brothers and sisters who, through faith and patience, have inherited the promises. To imitate something or someone means:

- To do or try to do after the manner of; to follow the example of; to copy in action.
- To make or produce a copy or representation of; to copy, reproduce.
- To be, become, or make oneself like; to assume the aspect or semblance of; to simulate.

This God-sanctioned method of learning is an essential tool for educating young people. For example, how is it that we teach a child to perform simple physical skills such as throwing and catching? “Hold your hands **like this**. Step forward as you throw **like this**.” Imitation. How is it that we teach a child how to form his letters correctly? “Hold your pencil **like this**. Look at **this ‘a’**. Trace **this letter**. Now, you try to make an ‘a’ **like this one**.” Imitation. How is it that we teach art? At Logos School students learn how to paint by imitating master painters of the past. “**This** is a good painting. Let’s see if you can **reproduce it**.” Imitation. How is it that music is taught, or reading, or math? Very often the best instruction in any of these areas necessarily includes imitation. Why, when it comes to teaching young people writing, do we educators regularly neglect this effective tool?

Educators in seventeenth century England knew the value of imitation as a tool through which they could teach style, particularly in the area of writing. The primary method of imitation in these English grammar schools was called **Double Translation**. In a double translation the teacher would translate a Latin work into English. The student was to copy this English translation over, paying close attention to every word and its significance. Then the student was to write down the English and Latin together, one above the other, making each language answer to the other. Afterwards the student translated the original Latin to English on his own. This was the first part of the translation. The second part took place ten days afterward when the student was given his final English translation and required to turn it back into good Latin.

Benjamin Franklin wrote of a similar exercise that he employed to educate himself a century later. When he was a young man, he came across a particular piece of writing that he delighted in, *The Spectator*. *The Spectator* is a series of 555 popular essays published in 1711 and 1712. These essays were intended to improve manners and morals, raise the cultural level of the middle-class reader, and popularize serious ideas in science and philosophy. They were written well, the style was excellent, and Franklin wanted to imitate it. Here is Franklin’s method of

“double translation” regarding *The Spectator*:

With that view (imitating this great work) I took some of the papers, and making short hints of the sentiments in each sentence, laid them by a few days, and then, without looking at the book, tried to complete the papers again, by expressing each hinted sentiment at length, and as fully as it had been expressed before, in any suitable words that should occur to me. Then I compared my *Spectator* with the original, discovered some of my faults, and corrected them.

But he realized that he needed a greater stock of words in order to add variety and clarity of thought to his writing.

Therefore I took some of the tales in the *Spectator*, and turned them into verse; and, after a time, when I had pretty well forgotten the prose, turned them back again. I also sometimes jumbled my collection of hints into confusion, and after some weeks endeavored to reduce them into the best order, before I began to form the sentences and complete the subject. This was to teach me method in the arrangement of thoughts. By comparing my work with the original, I discovered many faults and corrected them; but I sometimes had the pleasure to fancy that, in particulars of small consequence, I had been fortunate enough to improve the method or the language, and this encouraged me to think that I might in time become to be a tolerable English writer, of which I was extremely ambitious.

Now the question is; “How can we employ a similar methodology?”

# Imitation In Writing

## GREEK MYTHS

### Instructions:

1. **READ SILENTLY:** Have the students read the myth quietly to themselves, paying close attention to the story line. When they are done, they should underline the vocabulary words and describe the characters. Discuss, by means of questioning, who the characters are in the myth and what took place.
2. **STUDENT READS MYTH:** Choose a student to come to the front of the class and read the entire myth while the class follows along. (*Variation: To develop listening and note taking skills try reading the myth to your students without giving them a copy of it.*)
3. **ORAL RETELLING:** The teacher calls on individual students to retell the myth in their own words. These oral summaries should be short and to the point.
4. **VOCABULARY:** Call on one student for each of the vocabulary words. That student will read the sentence in which the word is found, providing context, and then define the word for the class. Occasionally the student definition will need to be modified by the teacher so that it is an exact match with the vocabulary word in the myth. One word definitions work well. The idea here is to provide the students with a synonym for each vocabulary word which could be substituted into the sentence without distorting the meaning. Have the students write the definition of each word on the blank provided.
5. **OUTLINE THE PLOT:** Initially this activity should be guided by the teacher and completed as a class. Providing every other simple sentence or phrase for each scene is helpful for younger students. There is some room for variation in the exact wording of the sentence or phrase. The rules are that each sentence or phrase must be three to four words long and represent a significant chronological event in that scene. From time to time the students will come up with a better sentence or phrase than the one provided in the *Suggested Plot Summaries* at the back of this book. Use it, by all means.
6. **CHARACTERS:** At this point the students will list the main characters in the story and write a few descriptive words about each.
7. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** Discuss any additional requirements and have the students write them on the blanks provided at the bottom of each worksheet. For examples of additional requirements see *EXCELLENCE IN WRITING @ 800-856-5815* (stylistic techniques, dress-ups, sentence openers, etc...) or teach your students figures of speech and require that they use them in their own writing (metaphor, simile, synecdoche, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, rhetorical question, personification, pun, oxymoron, alliteration).

8. PASS IN ORIGINAL MYTH: Before the students begin rewriting the myth, they must pass the original one in. Some students will want to read through the myth one more time to better understand what the whole thing is all about.

9. WRITE FIRST DRAFT: The students are now ready to rewrite the myth using their outlines to guide them. I allow my students to change the characters and some of the incidentals of the story in their rewrites as long as the plot is identifiable. The exceptionally good writers in the class will thrive off of this opportunity to be innovative. The students who are less comfortable with writing will tend to stick to the same characters and incidentals, which is fine. All of the vocabulary words must be used correctly and underlined in the rewrite. The students should skip lines on the first draft to allow room for editing.

10. PARENTS EDIT: Students take their rewrites home to complete the first draft and then they have their parents edit it. This is most profitable when the parents sit down with the student and edit the myth together. Guidelines for editing can be sent home at the beginning of the year or communicated at “Back to School Night” so that parents know what is expected.

11. FINAL DRAFT: Time in class can be provided for the students to work on the final draft. The students should not skip lines. I allow the students to draw an illuminated letter at the beginning of their story if they like.

12. GRADING: There is a grading sheet included which can be duplicated, cut out, completed, and stapled to each student’s rewrite. This will help the teacher to focus on the essential aspects of the composition as he is grading it and will provide specific feedback to the student and parents regarding which areas will need more attention in the future. If you have a different policy for grading writing assignments then simply disregard the grading sheet.

**GREEK MYTHS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Draft/Worksheet	10	_____
Handwriting	10	_____
Vocab. Usage	20	_____
Content (style, structure...)	30	_____
Mechanics (spell, punct...)	30	_____

---

Total	100	_____
-------	-----	-------

**GREEK MYTHS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Draft/Worksheet	10	_____
Handwriting	10	_____
Vocab. Usage	20	_____
Content (style, structure...)	30	_____
Mechanics (spell, punct...)	30	_____

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Total	100	_____
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**GREEK MYTHS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Draft/Worksheet	10	_____
Handwriting	10	_____
Vocab. Usage	20	_____
Content (style, structure...)	30	_____
Mechanics (spell, punct...)	30	_____

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Total	100	_____
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**GREEK MYTHS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Draft/Worksheet	10	_____
Handwriting	10	_____
Vocab. Usage	20	_____
Content (style, structure...)	30	_____
Mechanics (spell, punct...)	30	_____

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Total	100	_____
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1 <sup>st</sup> Draft/Worksheet	10	_____
Handwriting	10	_____
Vocab. Usage	20	_____
Content (style, structure...)	30	_____
Mechanics (spell, punct...)	30	_____

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Total	100	_____
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Student Example:

Name: Seth Bloomsburg

Date: January 12, 2000

# PANDORA

I. Vocabulary: Underline the following words in the myth and define them below.

- vexation: annoyance
- contrivance: invention
- sage: wise
- lamentable: regrettable or mournful
- personage: notable person

II. Plot: Write a simple sentence or phrase to describe the main actions that take place in each scene.

That Tempting Box	Pandora Gives In	Troubles Escape
1. Pandora enters cottage. 2. Pandora sees box. 3. Epimetheus warns Pandora.	1. Pandora unties knot. 2. Epimetheus gathers flowers. 3. Epimetheus watches Pandora.	1. Pandora opens box. 2. People are stung. 3. Hopes cures wounds.

III. Characters: List and briefly describe the main characters in this myth.

- Pandora: curious, unwise
- Epimetheus: guilty, foolish
- Hope: nice, diminutive

IV. Rewrite this myth. Be sure to:

- Include and underline all of the vocabulary words in your rewrite.
  - Write at least three separate paragraphs, one for each scene.
  - Include the following additional requirements:
- 
- 
- 
- 
-

Student Example:

PANDORA

(Rewritten by Seth Bloomsburg - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

There once lived a boy named Epimetheus, who was parentless. All he had was a box which he was told never to open. The box was beautifully crafted. Its lock was quite a contrivance; it was made of gold cord and the knot apparently had no end nor beginning. Anyway, there was another child named Pandora, who was likewise parentless. Pandora soon came to live in Epimetheus' house. Coming into the house, the box caught her eye. Epimetheus gave sage speeches telling her not to open the box. Living there with the box, though, made her vexations with it grow. She wished to open it more everyday. Angrily, she cursed it and called it ugly more than once.

Unfortunately, one day it got to be too much. She had to open it. Quietly she crept into Epimetheus' room and walked towards the box. She had barely touched the knot when, like magic, the cord untied itself. She tried to retie it, but to no avail. During this time Epimetheus was gathering flowers to make a wreath for Pandora's head. He was thinking of creeping in very quietly to surprise her, but he may as well have stomped through like a raging storm for it would not have made a difference. She was so enraptured by the box that she didn't notice her surroundings. When he opened the door, he saw a very different sight than he anticipated. He saw that Pandora had untied the cord. Since he didn't even try to stop her from opening the box, he was probably just as guilty. She opened it.

The next moment something very lamentable happened. Swarms of vile, winged creatures spilled forth. Pandora instantly shut the box. Pandora and Epimetheus were both stung. One time Epimetheus saved Pandora by brushing a creature away. They were finally able to open some windows, hoping to get rid of the creatures, yet this only spread them throughout the world. These Troubles and Angers and Passions would wreak havoc on the world. Neither of the two smiled for days, but one day Pandora heard a knock on the lid of the box, with a voice saying, "Let me out!" "Should I open it?" Pandora asked. "You've already done so much damage. What difference could another evil make?" Epimetheus stated. So, Pandora opened the box and out came a small personage that looked like a fairy. "Who are you?" inquired Pandora. "I am Hope," the fairy said. Then it kissed Pandora on the head and touched Epimetheus' wounds and they were healed. "I was put in that box because it was destined to be opened someday and when it was I would heal the wounds of those afflicted by the evils. Sometimes it will seem that I have utterly vanished, but I'm always here."

# PROMETHEUS

## I

Prometheus was one of the Titans, a gigantic race who had fought with the gods of Olympus and were conquered. To him and his brother Epimetheus was committed the office of providing man and all the animals with the faculties necessary for their preservation. Jupiter, king of the gods, put a great store of gifts at their disposal, and Epimetheus at once set to work to allot these to the different animals while Prometheus overlooked and directed his work. Epimetheus accordingly proceeded to bestow upon the various animals the gifts of courage, strength, swiftness, sagacity, and patience. He gave wings to one, claws to another, a shell covering to a third. To some he gave teeth, to some beaks, and to some tusks. Each animal was endowed with characteristics as Epimetheus saw fit. Soon it became apparent that he had been too generous with the store entrusted to him by Jupiter. Great as the store had been, it was now exhausted; and man had not yet received his gift.

Prometheus regretted this error deeply. He longed to give man a gift worthy of his upright stature. He thought long of what he could bestow upon man, and at last a great and terrible idea came into his mind. "In the dwelling of the gods," he thought, "is the divine fire which helps to make them all-powerful. On the earth no fire exists; if only I could obtain some and bestow it upon men, all that I desire might be accomplished." Then he reminded himself, "Jupiter would never consent to give to man a portion of fire. I must not dream of such a thing."

Yet Prometheus could not drive the idea from his mind. By day and by night he brooded over it, debating how the fire could be obtained. Could he steal it from the abode of the gods? The very thought brought terror. Swift and merciless would be the vengeance of Jupiter on such a thief. Yet, once the fire was given to man, even Jupiter could not take it back. Man would be raised forever above the beasts. If this could be done it would not matter what tortures Jupiter would inflict. Would not the thought of his deed comfort him in his pain so that he would triumph still?

## II

For many days Prometheus brooded over his great plan, until he quite lost sight of his own certain punishment in the splendid vision that rose before him of man inspired and ennobled by fire. At last he determined to undertake the great adventure. He chose a night when heavy clouds hung across the sky. In the thick darkness he set out, going softly and stealthily across the plains lest anyone should meet and question him. At the foot of Olympus he paused and looked upward to where he knew the shining city of the gods stood. Then with dogged courage he went up and up, climbing steadily until he passed through the dark enfolding clouds and stood in the clear and lovely light that shone upon the dwelling-place of the gods. Prometheus remembered the peril and greatness of his errand and wasted not another instant in gazing on the glories of that heavenly realm. Everything was quiet, and he could see no watchmen on the shining walls. Treading quickly and lightly for all his great stature, he passed into the city which none except the gods might enter, on pain of death.

In a moment he was out again, carrying a reed which he had lighted at the fire of the immortals. The great deed was done.

Back by the way he had come went Prometheus, guarding with fearful care that wavering flame. If anyone had seen that small point of light traveling through the night's blackness there would have been great marvel and questioning, for no light save that of the sun and moon and stars had ever shone on the earth. But none saw him, and he returned

safely with the flame.

Yet Prometheus knew that he had not escaped and that his punishment was certain. It could not be long before Jupiter would discover that there was fire upon the earth and to find the thief would be an easy task. Then his swift and terrible bolt would fall. The assurance of this did not frighten Prometheus or lead him to extinguish the fire. He had counted the cost beforehand and was prepared to pay to the uttermost. Now he only felt a great desire to spread the fire through all the world.

So he began and labored without ceasing. He revealed to man the divine fire and showed him how it would help him in his work, how it would burn wood and melt metals and fashion tools, how it would cook food and make life bearable in the frozen days of winter, and how it would give light in darkness so that men might labor and travel in the night-time as well as by day.

And fire did also a greater work than all these. It gave inspiration and enthusiasm and urged men on to gain higher and greater things. The whole earth thrilled with man's activities, and in the midst moved Prometheus, teaching, guiding, opening out before men's delighted eyes fresh fields for effort and attainment.

Jupiter, being occupied with other things, looked but little upon the earth at that time, but there came a day when the points of light scattered over its surface caught his attention, and with a shock of terrible anger he realized that daring hands had stolen heaven's fire. In a voice that sent echoing thunders throughout the earth Jupiter made his accusation and heaven and earth trembled. Jupiter was certain that no mortal could have put his foot over the shining threshold of the gods, and very soon his suspicions rested on the mighty Titan Prometheus. Prometheus was summoned and appeared before him. "Who is it that has stolen fire from heaven?" thundered Jupiter; and the Titan calmly answered, "It is I."

### III

Then the anger of Jupiter turned to fury, and he seized a thunderbolt to destroy the daring thief; but Prometheus stood so calmly, holding his head high and looking at death with such fearless eyes, that Jupiter dropped his bolt and asked in wonder, "Why did you do this thing?"

"Because," answered Prometheus, "I loved man; I longed to give him some gift that would raise him high above the brute creation. I knew of nought else that could do this save fire from heaven, and to ask the boon from you, O Jupiter, would have been to ask in vain. So I scaled the walls of your city and lit my reed at the flame, and now all over the earth fires are kindled. Not all your power can put out those fires or bring men back to the easy content which marks the beasts of the field."

As Jupiter listened to these proud words his fury died, and there came in its place a cold and bitter hatred of the being who had thus defied his power; so that he no longer thought of hurling a thunderbolt, deeming that it would bring a death too easy for the deserving of such a rebel. He wished to see Prometheus suffer slow and awful and unending tortures, that would not only wring his body but would seize on his proud spirit and lay it low in agony. So he called to his son, Vulcan, the god of the forge who had marvelous skill in the working of metals.

"Take this Titan, this Prometheus, and stretch him upon a rock and fasten him to it with chains that cannot be broken. There shall he lie through endless ages, and none shall succor him. Also I will send an eagle who each day shall devour his liver, causing him fearful torments; and each night the liver shall grow again, so that in the morning his sufferings may be renewed."

The gods of Olympus were used to Jupiter's fits of passion and to the terrible

punishments that he ordered for those who resisted his will; but at this sentence, which condemned Prometheus to unending agony, even they were aghast. But the Titan himself stood calm and proud, never flinching as he heard the dreadful words.

“Let it be so, O tyrant,” he said; “because you are strong you are merciless. My theft has done you no harm; there is still fire to spare on Olympus. Chain me to the rock and leave me to my cruel fate.”

By this time Vulcan had come with his dusky servants, the Cyclopes, to carry out his father’s will. Prometheus did not resist but allowed the god to bear him to his place of punishment. There they fastened him to the rock with chains that could not be broken, and left him to lie without shelter from the sun or the rain and with none to succor him through countless ages.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# PROMETHEUS

I. Vocabulary: Underline the following words in the myth and define them below.

sagacity: \_\_\_\_\_

ennobled: \_\_\_\_\_

realm: \_\_\_\_\_

succor: \_\_\_\_\_

aghast: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Plot: Write a simple sentence or phrase to describe the main actions that take place in each scene.

Gift for Man?
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Crime Committed
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Punishment
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

III. Characters: List and briefly describe the main characters in this myth.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IV. Rewrite this myth. Be sure to:

Include and underline all of the vocabulary words in your rewrite.

Write at least three separate paragraphs, one for each scene.

Include the following additional requirements:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Suggested Plot Summaries

### **PROMETHEUS**

1. Brothers give gifts.
2. Man receives none.
3. Prometheus schemes for fire.

1. Prometheus raids Olympus.
2. Fire spreads and ennobles.
3. Light catches Jupiter's attention.

1. Jupiter's bitter hatred.
2. Unending tortures planned.
3. Prometheus chained, no succor.

### **PANDORA**

1. Pandora sent as helpmate.
2. Pandora vexed about box.
3. Pandora ponders knot.

1. Pandora tries knot.
2. Pandora justifies opening.
3. Epimetheus watches silently.

1. Earthly troubles escape.
2. A tapping is heard.
3. Hope is discovered.

### **APOLLO AND DAPHNE**

1. Apollo kills Python.
2. Apollo taunts Cupid.
3. Cupid threatens Apollo.

1. Apollo hit by gold.
2. Daphne hit by lead.
3. Apollo pursues Daphne.

1. Apollo gains on Daphne.
2. Daphne cries for help.
3. Daphne changed to Laurel.

### **PYRAMUS AND THISBE**

1. Parents forbid marriage.
2. Lovers find crack.
3. Lovers kiss wall.

1. Lovers plan escape.
2. Lioness "kills" Thisbe.
3. Lioness tears veil.

1. Pyramus sees veil.
2. Pyramus punctures heart.
3. Thisbe follows after.

### **PAN**

1. Mercury and Penelope love.
2. Pan resembles gnat.
3. Penelope flees from fear.

1. Pan taken to Olympus.
2. Pan delights gods.
3. Pan loves woodland.

1. Pan pursues Syrinx.
2. Nymphs give assistance.
3. Pan plays pipes.

# ROMAN / GREEK NAME CHART

Below is a chart that shows which Greek gods the Romans associated with their own gods. Because the Roman names are more common in our language we use the Roman names in this book.

Roman / Latin Name	Greek Name	Description
Jupiter, Jove	Zeus	King of Gods and Men
Neptune	Poseidon	God of the Sea
Pluto	Pluto or Hades	God of the Underworld
Juno	Hera	Goddess of Marriage
Apollo	Phoebus Apollo	God of Sun, Music and Poetry
Minerva	Pallas Athena	Goddess of Wisdom, Crafts and War
Diana	Artemis	Goddess of the Hunt and Childbirth
Venus	Aphrodite	Goddess of Love and Beauty
Mercury	Hermes	God of Commerce and Science, Jupiter's Messenger
Mars	Ares	God of War
Vulcan	Hephaestus	God of the Forge and Fire, Smith to the Gods
Cupid	Eros	God of Love
Proserpine	Persephone	Goddess of the Underworld
Ceres	Demeter	Goddess of the Harvest and Growing Things
Bacchus	Dionysus	God of the Vine, Wine and Merriment
Aurora	Eos	Goddess of the Dawn
Somnus	Hypnus	God of Sleep
Hercules	Heracles	Son of Jupiter and Alcmena



# A GLOSSARY OF MYTHOLOGICAL TERMS AND GODS

## GREEK MYTHS

**Aeolus** (EE uh luhs) – Aeolus was the master of the winds and a son of Neptune. The gods gave him dominion over the winds, which he kept in vast caves on his floating island. The Aeolian Islands near Sicily are named for him. Aeolus gave Ulysses a bag of winds to help him on his voyage back home, but his crew opened the bag and the winds escaped. Aeolus was the father of Halcyone.

**Apollo** – Apollo was considered the god of the sun. He was in charge of driving the chariot of the sun across the sky daily to light the earth. He was known for killing an enormous serpent named Python. In commemoration of this conquest, he instituted the Pythian games in which the victor was crowned with a wreath of leaves. Apollo brought the warm spring and summer and the harvest. He was also thought to heal the sick and he was patron of music and poetry. Apollo had an oracle at Delphi where he made the future known. Diana was the twin sister of Apollo and Aesculapius was his son. (see Lyre)

**Arachne** (uh RAK nee) – Arachne was a mortal who entered into a weaving contest with Minerva. Arachne is the Greek word for spider. Even today in the field of zoology, spiders and their relatives are put into the class Arachnida. The word arachnoid is used as an adjective to describe something resembling or related to the arachnids. Something flimsy and thin like a spider's web can be described as arachnoid also. In the medical field, there is a thin membrane of the brain and spinal cord that is called the arachnoid membrane.

**Argus** (AHR guhs) – Argus was a monster with one hundred eyes in his head. After his death it is said that Juno placed his eyes in the tail of the peacock. It is interesting to note that there is a species of bird which is closely related to the peacock which bears the name Argus pheasant.

**Aurora** – The Romans associated their goddess Aurora with Eos. Both were considered the goddess of the dawn. The English word east resembles the word Eos where the dawn begins. The Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis are named after Aurora because they resemble lights like the light of dawn.

**Cadmus** – Cadmus supposedly invented the alphabet which is sometimes called the “Cadmean letters.” There are a couple of phrases in English which originate with this myth. To “sow dragon's teeth” can mean to stir up war or dissension and a “Cadmean Victory” is a victory in which hardly anyone survives.

**Caduceus** – The caduceus is a rod or pole around which are entwined two snakes. Sometimes caduceus have wings near the top. The caduceus was the badge of Mercury the messenger of Jupiter. Before modern medicine, doctors treated an infection of parasitic worms by using a stick and a knife. The doctor would cut a slit in the patient's skin just in front of the moving worm, and as the worm would crawl out the cut, it was wound around the stick until the entire worm was removed from the patient. Because of this practice, doctors would promote their services by means of a sign on which

was painted a stick with worms entwined around it. This caduceus symbolizes medicine today and is the insignia of the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

**Callisto** – The Greeks believed that Callisto was turned into the constellation *Ursa Major* or “the Great Bear” and her son Arcas into *Ursa Minor* or “the Little Bear.” The constellation *Ursa minor* contains the North Star. It is interesting to note that the Greek word for bear is “arkto” and the Greeks called the northern region “arktikos.” This explains why we today refer to the area around the North Pole as the “Arctic Circle” and why the ocean in the arctic zone is called the “Arctic Ocean.” The prefix “ant” means opposite. The South Pole is bounded by the “Antarctic circle.” The continent contained in the Antarctic circle is called “Antarctica” and the water surrounding Antarctica is the “Antarctic Ocean.” There is yet one other remnant of this myth in the sky. Near *Ursa Major* and *Ursa Minor* there is a star that appears to watch over the constellations. This star is called “Arcturus” which comes from the Greek words which mean “to guard the bears.” The Bible also mentions these constellations. God said to Job in chapter 38:31,32,

"Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades,  
Or loose the cords of Orion?  
Can you lead forth a constellation in its season,  
And guide the Bear with her satellites?"

**Canis Major and Canis Minor** – *Canis Major* and *Minor* are known as the hunting dogs of Orion. These two constellations contain two of the brightest stars visible. Sirius is the brightest star in the night sky and can be seen as the nose of *Canis Major*. The Romans sacrificed a dog to the star Sirius once a year in hopes that the hot star would not scorch the earth and dry the crops. *Canis Major* is best seen from January through March. The star Procyon is also a bright star and is found in the constellation *Canis Minor* which is best seen from December through May.

**Ceres** (SIHR eez) – Ceres was the daughter of Saturn and Rhea. She had a daughter named Proserpine, who became the wife of Pluto, and queen of the realms of the dead. Ceres presided over agriculture, particularly the grains. We call a group of breakfast foods cereal after Ceres. Ceres is also the name of an asteroid or planetoid between Jupiter and Mars. The element cerium was named to honor Ceres.

**Circe** (SUR see) – Circe was the daughter of Apollo. She was an enchantress especially remembered for turning Ulysses’ men into swine.

**Cupid** – Cupid, the god of love, was the son of Venus and Mars. Cupid was the constant companion of Venus. He was often represented with his eyes covered because of the blindness of his actions. Armed with bow and arrows, he shot the darts of desire into the bosoms of both gods and men. In 1898 a planetoid was discovered between Mars and Earth. It was named Eros. The word cupidity has come to mean “strong desire” or greed, and describes too much love of money or material things.

**Cyclops** – Cyclops in Greek means round-eye. Cyclopes were giant creatures with one eye in the middle of their forehead. The Cyclopes worked forges in volcanos and manufactured lightning bolts. The Greeks believed that when the fires of their forges grew too high, molten rock and ash spewed out. The first three Cyclopes born to Uranus and Terra were Brontes, Steropes, and Arges; which happen to be the Greek words for thunder, lightning, and brightness. There is a type of dinosaur called the brontosaurus, or “thunder lizard,” after Brontes the Cyclops. Strangely enough, there is a tiny water flea named Cyclops, not for its size, but for the fact that it appears to have only one eye

in the middle of its head.

**Cygnus** (SIHG nuhs) – Cygnus was the name of Phaeton’s friend who was turned into a swan and placed in the skies. The constellation Cygnus is best seen during the month of September flying along the section of sky which was scorched by Phaeton’s trip, the Milky Way.

**Daedalus** (DEHD uh luhs) – Daedalus was so proud of his achievements that he could not bear the idea of a rival. His sister had placed her son Perdix under his charge to be taught the mechanical arts. He was an apt scholar and gave striking evidences of ingenuity. Daedalus was so envious of his nephew's performance that he took an opportunity, when they were together one day on the top of a high tower to push him off. But Minerva , who favors ingenuity, saw him falling, and arrested his fate by changing him into a bird called after his name, the Partridge. This bird does not build his nest in the trees, nor take lofty flights, but nestles in the hedges, and mindful of his fall, avoids high places. (The Latin word for partridge is perdix.)

**Daphne** (DAF nee) – Daphne was a nymph who, to escape Apollo, was turned into a laurel tree. It is interesting to note that the genus of plants that the laurel tree belongs to is called “Daphne” by botanists. The word “daphnean” means shy or bashful.

**Diana** – Diana was the goddess of the hunt and also the moon. She was the sister of Apollo and considered the ideal of modesty, grace, and maidenly vigor. Diana despised the “weakness” of love and imposed upon her nymphs vows of perpetual maidenhood. She was not only a huntress, but a guardian of wild beasts. When she was weary of the chase she turned to music and dancing, for the lyre and flute and song were dear to her. Though naturally gracious, gentle, and a healer of ills, Diana was, like her brother, quick to resent injury to her sacred herds or insult to herself. The cypress tree was sacred to her and her favorite animals were the bear, the boar, the dog, the goat, and specially the hind.

**Epimetheus** – Epimetheus was a Titan and the brother of Prometheus. His name means “hind thought.” He tended to be foolish and only saw the consequences of his actions after they had occurred.

**Eridanus** – Eridanus is the name of the river into which Phaeton fell after being struck with a thunderbolt thrown by Jupiter. The river Eridanus is represented in the sky as the constellation Eridanus which is best seen in the month of December between the constellations Pegasus and Draco. Even today some say that the amber tears of Phaeton’s sisters can still be found mixed in the sand along the Eridanus.

**Halcyone** (HAL see uhn) – Halcyone was the daughter of Aeolus and the wife of Ceyx. Halcyone was turned into a bird as she was mourning for Ceyx. The word Halcyone denotes a bird that is identified with the kingfisher. It can also mean calm or peaceful.

**Icarus** – Icarus is remembered also as a planetoid. This planetoid, named Icarus, travels at some points farther from the sun than Mars but then swoops toward the sun and gets closer to it than the planet Mercury. Interestingly enough, the death of Icarus is told in the following lines by Darwin:

“...with melting wax and loosened strings

Sunk hapless Icarus on unfaithful wings;  
Headlong he rushed through the affrighted air,  
With limbs distorted and dishevelled hair;  
His scattered plumage danced upon the wave,  
And sorrowing Nereids decked his watery grave;  
O'er his pale corse their pearly sea-flowers shed,  
And strewed with crimson moss his marble bed;  
Struck in their coral towers the passing bell,  
And wide in ocean tolled his echoing knell."

**Io** – Io was a nymph who was turned into a cow by Jupiter. There are two words in geography which received their names from the myth concerning Io. The portion of the Mediterranean sea that separates Greece from southern Italy is called the Ionian Sea. The straits which separate Europe and Asia where Istanbul is located are called Bosphorus which means “cow crossing.” One story states that Jupiter raised Io to the skies after her death as the constellation Taurus or “the bull.” The best time to see Taurus is October through March. Some think that Taurus may have been the first constellation.

**Iris** – Iris was a minor goddess who was a messenger and attendant of Juno. She used a rainbow to travel from heaven to earth to deliver messages to mortals. Iris is the Greek word for rainbow. The colored part of our eyes is called the iris in her honor. The plural form of iris in Greek is irides. This is where the adjective iridescent comes from. There is also an element which combines with other elements to form colorful substances. This element is named iridium.

**Juno** – Juno was the wife of Jupiter, and queen of the gods. Iris, the goddess of the rainbow, was her attendant and messenger. The peacock was her favorite bird. The sixth month of the year is named after Juno who was considered the goddess of marriage. June is still a popular month for weddings.

**Jupiter** – Jupiter was king of gods and men and considered god of the sky. He was the supreme ruler of the universe, and the wisest and most glorious of the divinities. Jupiter gathered the clouds and snows, dispensed the gentle rains and winds and moderated the light and heat of the seasons. The thunder was his weapon. The eagle was his favorite bird, which bore his thunderbolts. The Romans identified their god of the sky, Jupiter, with the Greek god Zeus. The Greeks had named the fifth planet after Zeus. Naturally, the Romans used their version of the name and we today call the planet Jupiter. The planet Jupiter accurately reflects the god Jupiter - the planet has the largest family of satellites in the Solar System. There are twelve altogether and each is named after some person connected with Jupiter in mythology. Four of these satellites happen to be the first objects in the solar system that were discovered by the telescope. They were discovered in 1610 by Galileo Galilei. These four satellites were named Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. The fifth satellite discovered is often referred to as Amaltheia after the goat which nursed Jupiter as an infant. The last seven satellites have yet to be named. Jupiter was also referred to as Jove. When people today say, “by Jove,” they are referring to Jupiter. Jove is used as an adjective to refer to things associated with Jupiter. Thus the satellites of Jupiter are called the Jovian satellites.

**Lyre** – Mercury is said to have invented the lyre. He found, one day, a tortoise, of which he took the shell, made holes in the opposite edges of it, and drew cords of linen through them, and the instrument was complete. The cords were nine, in honor of the nine Muses. Mercury gave the lyre to Apollo, and received from him in exchange the caduceus. Later Apollo gave the lyre to his son Orpheus. When Orpheus died Jupiter placed the lyre in the sky as the constellation Lyra. The

constellation Lyra is located next to Cygnus and is best seen from May to November. (See Mercury, Apollo, Orpheus)

**Mercury** – Mercury was the son of Jupiter and Maia. He presided over commerce, wrestling, and other gymnastic exercises, even over thieving, and everything, in short, which required skill and dexterity. He is also thought of as presiding over chemistry and medicine. Today when chemists seal off a vessel to keep the contents from being exposed to the air, we call the vessel hermitically sealed (see Roman / Greek Name Chart for the connection). He was the messenger of Jupiter, and wore a winged cap and winged shoes. He bore in his hand a rod entwined with two serpents, called the caduceus (See caduceus). The planet which moves the fastest is naturally named Mercury. It is interesting to note that the symbol for the planet Mercury is - a caduceus with two wings on top and snakes twining the sides. Mercury is said to have invented the lyre (See Lyre, Muses). Mercury is the name of a metallic element which is also called quicksilver.

**Midas** – Midas was king of Phrygia and the son of Gordius, a poor countryman, who was taken by the people and made king. They did this in obedience to the command of the oracle, which had said that their future king should come in a wagon. While the people were deliberating the prophecy, Gordius with his wife and son came riding into the public square in a wagon. Gordius, being made king, dedicated his wagon to the deity of the oracle, and tied it up in its place with a fast knot. This was the celebrated Gordian Knot, which, in after times it was said, whoever should untie should become lord of all Asia. Many tried to untie it, but none succeeded, till Alexander the Great, in his career of conquest, came to Phrygia. He tried his skill with as ill success as others, till growing impatient he drew his sword and cut the knot. When he afterwards succeeded in subjecting all Asia to his sway, people began to think that he had complied with the terms of the oracle according to its true meaning.

**Minerva** – The Romans identified their goddess Minerva with the Greek goddess Athena. Minerva comes from the Latin word *mens*, meaning mind. Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, was the daughter of Jupiter. She was said to have leaped forth from his brain, mature, and in complete armor. Her favorite bird was the owl, and the plant sacred to her the olive. She presided over the useful and ornamental arts, both those of men - such as agriculture and navigation, and those of women - spinning, weaving, and needlework. She was also a warlike divinity, but it was defensive war only that she patronized. Athens was her chosen seat, her own city, awarded to her as the prize of a contest with Neptune (Poseidon), who also aspired to it. The tale runs that in the reign of Cecrops, the first king of Athens, the two deities contended for the possession of the city. The gods decreed that it should be awarded to that one who produced the gift most useful to mortals. Neptune gave the horse; Minerva produced the olive. The gods gave judgment that the olive was the more useful of the two, and awarded the city to the goddess; and it was named Athens after her, her name in Greek being Athena. In the ancient world, Athens was the most powerful and richest and civilized of all the cities of Greece. It is still the capital Greece today.

Another name used for Athena is Pallas. At one time, it is said that Athena killed a giant named Pallas and then adopted his name. Thus Athena is frequently referred to as Pallas Athena. References to Pallas Athena show up many places in our modern language. The second planetoid that was discovered (in 1802) was named Pallas. It is also the second largest of the known asteroids with a diameter of 304 miles. In 1803 a new element was discovered by an English chemist. He named it palladium after Pallas. Palladium is especially used in electrical contacts and in alloys. There are other tales that contain the word palladium. The ancient city of Troy had a statue of Athena called a palladium. Legend had it that the city of Troy would be safe as long as the statue was preserved in the city. The statue was eventually lost and the city of Troy fell. In the modern world

a palladium has come to mean a safeguard. Our constitution can be considered a palladium of our freedoms.

Athena was often referred to by the Greeks as Athena Parthenos (Athena the Virgin) because she never married. In 437 B.C. a temple to Athena was completed in Athens. The Greeks called it the Parthenon. Its remains can still be seen today as a reminder of the glories of ancient Greece. Because of all the words we use today that originated with Pallas Athena, this is one case where the Greek name of the goddess is more commonly known today than the Roman.

**Morpheus** – The Greek god of dreams is Morpheus. He lies on an ebony bed in a dim-lit cave, surrounded by poppies. He appears to humans in their dreams in the shape of a man. He is responsible for shaping dreams, or giving shape to the beings which inhabit dreams. Morpheus, known from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, plays no part in Greek mythology. His name means "he who forms, or molds", and is mentioned as the son of Hypnos or Somnus, the god of sleep. The first chemical to be obtained from a plant was a powerful hypnotic which brought sleep and relief to those treated with it. It was named "morphine" because its effects were like that of Morpheus coming and bringing rest.

**Muses** – The Muses were the daughters of Jupiter and Mnemosyne (Memory). The name Mnemosyne which means memory in Greek is represented today in our word mnemonic. They presided over song, and prompted the memory. Poets considered the muses as the goddesses of poetic inspiration. Many times poets called on the Muses for inspiration. They were nine in number, to each of whom was assigned the presidency over some particular department of literature, art, or science. Calliope was the muse of epic poetry, Clio of history, Euterpe of lyric poetry, Melpomene of tragedy, Terpsichore of choral dance and song, Erato of love poetry, Polyhymnia of sacred poetry, Urania of astronomy, Thalia of comedy. Our word Music is related to the Muses and places which are dedicated to the learning of history of types are called Museums. Three planetoids are named Melpomene, Calliope, and Thalia.

**Narcissus** (nahr SIHS uhs) – Narcissus was a human who fell in love with his own reflection. The word narcissist denotes a person who is absorbed in himself. Narcissus represents a family of flowers which includes daffodils and jonquils.

**Neptune** – Neptune was god of the waters. The Romans identified their god of springs and rivers named Neptune with the Greek god Poseidon. When, in the 1800's scientists observed Uranus to discover its exact orbit they realized that there must be another planet beyond Uranus which was affecting its orbit. When they had calculated where such a planet must be, astronomers looked into the sky and there was Neptune. Neptune carried a trident which was given him by the Cyclopes. The two satellites of Neptune are named Triton and Nereid. Triton was Poseidon's son who was half man and half fish. After a storm it was his job to blow a horn made of a large shell to calm the sea. There is a type of large sea snail that is called Triton after the shell that he was supposed to have blown. Nereid refers to the fifty sea nymphs that accompanied Poseidon on his travels. Element number 93 of the periodic table is known as neptunium after Neptune.

**Nymph** – Nymphs were minor goddesses that were pictured as young girls. The word nymph was Greek for "young girl" and even today zoologists call the young forms of some insects "nymphs." Nymphs were representative of various objects of nature. There were nymphs in trees, rocks, mountains, forests, lakes and rivers. They represented the spirit of these things to the Greeks. The word Atlantic comes from a group of nymphs called the Atlantides who were the daughters of Atlas and were associated with the far western waters. The Oceanids were nymphs who were the daughters

of Oceanus and the Nereids were the daughters of Nereus.

**Oedipus** (EHD uh puhs) – Oedipus was the king of Thebes known for killing his father and marrying his mother. The most famous version of the story of Oedipus is in the form of a tragedy written by Sophocles called *Oedipus Rex*.

**Olympus** – Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. The abode of the gods was on the summit of Mount Olympus, in Thessaly. A gate of clouds, kept by the goddesses named the Seasons, opened to permit the passage of the Celestials to earth, and to receive them on their return. The gods had their separate dwellings; but all, when summoned, repaired to the palace of Jupiter, as did also those deities whose usual abode was the earth, the waters, or the under-world. It was also in the great hall of the palace of the Olympian king that the gods feasted each day on ambrosia and nectar, their food and drink. Here they conversed of the affairs of heaven and earth. As they quaffed their nectar, Apollo, the god of music, delighted them with the tones of his lyre, to which the Muses sang in responsive strains. When the sun was set, the gods retired to sleep in their respective dwellings.

The word Olympics comes from the word Olympus. It was said that these games were founded by Jupiter himself. They were celebrated at Olympia in Elis. Vast numbers of spectators flocked to them from every part of Greece, and from Asia, Africa and Sicily. They were repeated every four years in midsummer, and continued five days. The exercises in these games were of five sorts: running, leaping, wrestling, throwing the quoit, and hurling the javelin, or boxing. Besides these exercises of bodily strength and agility there were contests in music, poetry and eloquence or literature. Thus the games furnished poets, musicians and authors the best opportunities to present their productions to the public, and the fame of the victors was diffused far and wide. The winner's prize was a crown of wild olive. The first Olympiad is generally considered as corresponding with the year 776 B.C. The games continued every four years until A.D. 394 when the Roman Emperor Theodosius put an end to them. They were revived and renamed the "Olympic Games" in 1896. They have continued every four years except for interruptions during World War I and World War II.

**Orion** – One myth states that Orion's friend Diana was tricked into shooting Orion by her brother Apollo. After Diana realized what had happened she placed the body of Orion in her moon-chariot and in sadness drove him into the darkest part of the sky. There she placed him so that he would shine brighter than the surrounding stars. Another myth concerning the death of Orion states that he once boasted that he was so great a hunter that he could kill all the animals on the face of the earth. This so concerned Gaea - the goddess of the earth that she sent a giant scorpion to sting Orion. The scorpion succeeded and both were placed in the night sky. The constellation Scorpius is part of the Zodiac and is best seen in the southern hemisphere during July and August. The constellation Orion is best seen from December through March.

**Orpheus** (OHR fee uhs) – Orpheus was the son of Apollo and the Muse Calliope. (See Lyre)

**Pan** – Pan was the god of flocks and shepherds. His favourite residence was in Arcadia. Pan gets his name from the Greek word meaning all. He is usually pictured playing a simple pipe instrument and dancing happily. Pan was known as a son of the god Mercury. He is considered a god of the fields and woods. Pan is depicted as having the hindquarters, legs, ears, and horns of a goat and the rest of him is man. Pan was considered by early Christians as immoral. This is where our modern picture of the devil with horns, hoofs, and tail comes from. The Greeks thought that Pan could strike terror in people, and thus our word panic.

**Pandora** – Pandora was the first woman. She was made by Jupiter and sent to Prometheus and his brother to punish them for their presumption in stealing fire from heaven; and to punish man, for accepting the gift. She was made in heaven, and every god contributed something to perfect her. Venus gave her beauty, Mercury persuasion, Apollo music, etc. They then named her Pandora, “the gift of all the gods.” Thus equipped, she was conveyed to earth, and presented to Epimetheus, who gladly accepted her, though cautioned by his brother to beware of Jupiter and his gifts. The caution was not groundless. Pandora had been given a box from the immortals which she was forbidden to open. Overcome with curiosity to know what it contained she one day opened the lid and looked in. Forthwith there escaped a multitude of plagues for man - diseases for the body, envy spite, and revenge for his mind etc. Pandora hastened to replace the lid but one thing remained in the box - Hope. Through “Pandora’s box” all the evils in the world came about, thus today anything which is harmless when undisturbed but which becomes troublesome when tampered with is called a “Pandora’s Box.”

**Phaeton** (FAY uh thahn) – Phaeton was the son of the god of the sun. A phaeton was an open carriage used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some say that the chariot of the sun god, while driven by Phaeton, scorched a great streak across the sky which we call the Milky Way.

**Pleiades** – The Pleiades were the nymph daughters of Atlas who ran from Orion and were changed into stars just as he was about to catch them. The Pleiades are represented as a small cluster of stars forming the left shoulder of Taurus the bull.

**Pluto or Hades** – Pluto is the god of the underworld. The Romans had a god of the dead named Dis, but in this instance the name that has stuck with us has been the Greek one - Pluto. In 1931 the ninth planet was discovered and named Pluto. It is the only planet named after a Greek god and not a Roman one. Element number 94 of the periodic table is known as plutonium after Pluto.

**Prometheus** (proh MEE thee uhs) – Prometheus was a Titan whose name comes from the Greek words meaning “forethought,” and indeed he was wise and saw where actions would lead. When the Titans and Olympians were at war, Prometheus foresaw that the Olympians would win. He thus convinced his brother, Epimetheus to abandon the Titan cause with him. Thus the two brothers were spared the punishment that fell on the other Titans when they lost. Prometheus was so defiant in his theft of fire that the adjective “Promethean” is used to describe a daring, original, creative action. There is a radioactive metallic element (Atomic number 61) which is named promethium after this famous Titan.

**Proserpine** (Proh SUR puh nuh) – There are some who say that the constellation Virgo is Proserpine. This is why she is seen in the sky half of the year and descends to Tartarus the other half. The best time of year to see Virgo is April through June.

**Psyche** – The fable of Cupid and Psyche is usually considered allegorical. Psyche was made immortal and joined Cupid in the end. The Greek name for a butterfly is Psyche, and the same word means the soul. There is no illustration so striking and beautiful as the butterfly, bursting on brilliant wings from the tomb in which it has lain, after a dull, groveling, caterpillar existence, to flutter in the blaze of day and feed on the most fragrant and delicate productions of the spring. Psyche, then, has been considered to represent the human soul, which is purified by sufferings and misfortunes, and is thus prepared for the enjoyment of true and pure happiness. In works of art Psyche is represented as a maiden with the wings of a butterfly. This also led to fairies being pictured with wings. The



relationship between Psyche and butterflies is also shown in the fact that there is a group of moths that belong to the family “Psychidae.”

**Satyrs** (SAT uhr) – Satyrs were deities of the woods and fields. They were covered with bristly hair, their heads decorated with short, sprouting horns, and their feet like goats' feet.

**Scylla** (SIHL uh) – Scylla is pictured as having a human body with six long necks. At the end of each neck is a growling dog's head.

**Somnus** – Somnus was the Roman god of sleep. He is the father of Morpheus. The word “somnambulism” in Latin means sleepwalking and it is another word for sleepwalking in English. When we are sleepy it can be said that we are somnolent.

**Syrinx** – Syrinx was a nymph that was chased by Pan and turned into reeds just before she was caught. Pan made a flute or pipe from these reeds. Syrinx is also Greek word which means pipe. It is interesting to note that there is a special region in the windpipe of songbirds named after the nymph. This region is called the syrinx. The word syringe is the plural form of the word syrinx. Syringes are also pipes but less musical in nature, they convey fluids either in or out of a reservoir.

**Titans and Titanesses** – Titans and Titanesses were the most important children of Uranus and Gaea. They were beings of tremendous size who were defeated in a war against the Olympians. In our language the word titanic is used to describe something of enormous size. In 1911 the largest ship in existence was launched. It was named the Titanic. If the owners of the Titanic had considered mythology more, they may have chosen a different name. In 1912 the Titanic sank in three hours. Over 1500 of the 2206 passengers were killed. In 1791 a newly discovered metal was named titanium. Pure titanium has been shown to be one of the strongest metals known. Many dinosaurs also take their name from the giants or Titans. Titanosaurus, gigantosaurus, and titanotherium, all have their name beginnings in the Titans.

**Venus** – Venus the goddess of love and beauty, was the daughter of Jupiter. Others say that Venus sprang from the foam of the sea. The zephyr wafted her along the waves to the Isle of Cyprus, where she was received and attired by the Seasons, and then led to the assembly of the gods. All were charmed with her beauty, and each one demanded her for his wife. Jupiter gave her to Vulcan, in gratitude for the service he had rendered in forging thunderbolts. So the most beautiful of the goddesses became the wife of the only deformed god. The Romans respected Venus so much that the word venerate has come to mean to honor or respect. Venus possessed an embroidered girdle called Cestus, which had the power of inspiring love. There is a type of flatworm that resides in the sea which is shaped like a belt. Zoologists have named these worms cestus. The only planet named after a goddess is Venus. It is far brighter than any star. In fact it is the next brightest thing after the sun and moon. The symbol for Venus is ♀ a mirror or looking glass. Something easily identified with the goddess of beauty. This symbol has also come to indicate females in general. Her favorite birds were swans and doves, and the plants sacred to her were the rose and the myrtle.

**Vulcan** – Vulcan was the son of Jupiter and Juno. He was born lame, and his mother was so displeased at the sight of him that she flung him out of heaven. Other accounts say that Jupiter kicked him out for taking part with his mother in a quarrel which occurred between them. Vulcan's lameness, according to this account, was the consequence of his fall. He was a whole day falling, and at last

alighted in the Island of Lemnos, which was thenceforth sacred to him.

Vulcan was the god of fire. He was architect, smith, armorer, chariot builder, and artist of all work in Olympus. He built of brass the houses of the gods; he made for them the golden shoes with which they trod the air or the water, and moved from place to place with the speed of the wind, or even of thought. He also shod with brass the celestial steeds, which whirled the chariots of the gods through the air, or along the surface of the sea. Vulcan made the scepter of Jove, the shields and spears of the Olympians, the arrows of Apollo and Diana, the breastplate of Hercules and the shield of Achilles. He was able to bestow on his workmanship self-motion, so that the chairs and tables could move of themselves in and out of the celestial hall. Vulcan even endowed with intelligence the golden handmaidens whom he made to wait on himself.

Vulcan was the god of smiths and the Romans pictured him as working in the depths of the volcano Mount Etna. In 1839 a man named Charles Goodyear discovered how to heat rubber and sulfur to make rubber more useful. Men wanted to use rubber waterproof clothing but the rubber got soft in the hot weather and too hard in the cold. The method discovered by Goodyear allowed rubber to be put to many uses. This process is now called vulcanization after Vulcan.

Vulcan was a good natured god, loved and honored among men. When he choose, he was the cause of “inextinguishable laughter” to the gods, but he was by no means a fool. The famous god of the strong arms could be cunning, even vengeful, when the emergency demanded.

Some say that Vulcan invented a better kind of chariot and is honored in the sky as Auriga or the charioteer. Others say that because Vulcan was lame he invented the chariot so that he could get around. The constellation Auriga is best seen during February.

*F I N I S*