

# MYTH into REALITY



Go to the library and find one of your favorite classical myths. This is an important point: It must be a story you love. If you are excited by the tale then your enthusiasm will be contagious. 398.2 is the place in the library to find myths from around the world. Find a couple of versions of the same myth to compare and contrast the differences. Which parts of each version do you like better?

Read the story out loud several times. Experiment with different VOICES, pacing, tone, sound effects and dramatic inflection. Stand up and act it out.

Experiment with BODY language. Use gesture and facial expression. Close your eyes and see the story in your IMAGINATION. Use your voice, body and imagination together to TELL the story!

***You can also rewrite an ancient myth as if it happened in modern times:***

First make an outline of the basic plot. In five or six sentences write a brief summary of the story emphasizing the main events. This is the skeleton of the story that you will flesh out with your own details. Though the details will change the basic plot should remain the same.

You can change the characters' names and descriptions so they are more modern. Make a list of the main characters. Next to each name write a modern name and brief description of what they look like. Hercules becomes Howard, Zeus becomes Zach, and Venus becomes Vanesha. Though you may change the names and clothing, hairstyle and jewelry, their basic character should stay the same. Hercules is still brave and foolish. Venus is still beautiful, powerful, and vain.

Change the setting to a place you have been or know very well. The better you know your setting the more realistic your details will be. It could be a big city like New York or Chicago, or it could be your uncle's farm. To help you outline the story, draw a map of the setting(s) or floor plan of the house(s). Remember that setting includes time: time of day, time of year and time in history. Do you want to set the story in 2017, the 1960's, or 1850's? Winter or summer? A bright sunny morning or a dark stormy night? Whatever time you choose will help to determine the types of clothes, houses, transportation, communication and other "technology" of the times. Consistent details will help make the story more credible.



Mount Olympus becomes The Chicago Skyline

Next, make a list of the 5 W's & H. Who, What, Where, When, Why and How. Play around with these. Some you will change a lot, some you will change very little. First make a list of the facts from the original story. Then write a sentence or two about your changes. For example: Instead of Phaeton riding Helios' chariot of the sun across the sky and scorching the earth, Phil steals his daddy's Harley and ends up in a drag race where he wipes out, careening into a meadow where the gas tank explodes starting a huge fire.



Now that you have your ideas on paper, choose a partner and take turns telling your new version of the story. Allow yourself the freedom to improvise; change your mind if you like. Telling it first will make it easier to write it. After telling it, WRITE IT!

Practice, practice, practice. Tell the story several times to anyone who will listen. When you get the story polished, rewritten and rehearsed, ask your teacher if you can tell it to the class.

The Chariot becomes a Motorcycle