Name_____

"**Arachne**" by Olivia E. Coolidge
Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from "Arachne." Then, complete the activities that follow.

Word List A

challenged [CHAL uhnjd] *v.* dared someone to participate in a contest
    Rita <u>challenged</u> her friends to a race to prove how fast she was.

descend [dee SEND] *v.* to climb down or go lower
    Tomorrow, Jake plans to <u>descend</u> the mountain and hike the valley.

goddess [GAHD is] *n.* a female god or deity
    The ancient Egyptians worshipped Isis, the <u>goddess</u> of fertility.

judged [JUHJD] *v.* decided the winner of a competition
    Stephen <u>judged</u> the writing contest and gave Pablo's essay first prize.

marvelous [MAHR vuh luhs] *adj.* creating surprise or wonder
    The fireworks display was a <u>marvelous</u> sight and impressed everyone.

olive [AHL iv] *adj.* relating to the small green fruit that can be eaten or crushed for oil
    The <u>olive</u> trees were ready to be harvested.

presence [PREZ uhns] *n.* the position near a person or thing
    Marco felt smarter in the <u>presence</u> of his teacher.

products [PROD uhktz] *n.* things that are made or created
    <u>Products</u> like cheese and butter can be made from cow's milk.

Word List B

amid [uh MID] *prep.* in the middle of or surrounded by
    The bird flew <u>amid</u> the branches of a tree to reach its nest.

deceived [dee SEEVD] *v.* purposefully tricked
    The wolf in sheep's clothing <u>deceived</u> the sheep.

fate [FAYT] *n.* consequence, result, or destiny
    It was Evan's <u>fate</u> to always be the last person picked for the team.

gorgeous [GOR juhs] *adj.* very beautiful or attractive
    Linda thought the beautiful rose bushes in the park were <u>gorgeous</u>.

overtaken [oh ver TAY kuhn] *v.* caught up with and passed
    The runner was <u>overtaken</u> by his rival and finished in second place.

reckless [REK lis] *adj.* careless about safety
    Marla was a <u>reckless</u> bicycle rider, and she often had accidents.

skillful [SKIL fuhl] *adj.* able to do something well
    Diego was a <u>skillful</u> guitarist and could play many songs well.

strands [STRANDZ] *n.* long, thin threads
    Alice wove the <u>strands</u> of wool into a beautiful blanket.

"Arachne" by Olivia E. Coolidge	Literary Analysis: Myths

Myths are fictional tales that describe the actions of gods or heroes. Every culture has its own collection of myths. A myth can do one or more of the following:

- tell how the universe or a culture began
- explain something in nature, such as the return of spring after winter
- teach a lesson
- express a value, such as courage or honor

DIRECTIONS: *As you read "Arachne," look for examples of each characteristic of a myth. Use the examples to fill in the chart below. If you do not find an example of a particular characteristic, write "None" in the second column.*

A Myth Can . . .	How "Arachne" Shows This
1. Describe the actions of gods or heroes	
2. Tell how the universe or a culture began	
3. Explain something in nature	
4. Teach a lesson	
5. Express values and traditions that are important to the culture	

Reading: Ask Questions to Analyze Cause-and-Effect Relationships

A **cause** is an event, an action, or a feeling that makes something happen. An **effect** is what happens. Sometimes, an effect can become the cause of another event. For example, seeing an empty soda can on the sidewalk can cause you to pick it up. The good example you set can then cause someone else to pick up litter when he or she sees it. As you read, look for clue words such as *because, as a result, therefore,* and *so* to signal a cause-and- effect relationship. Then, **ask questions** such as "What happened?" and "Why did this happen?" to help you follow the cause-and-effect relationships in a literary work.

DIRECTIONS: *Look at the organizer below. Some of the causes and effects and the questions you might ask about them in the first half of "Arachne" have been listed for you. Fill in the missing causes, questions, and effects. Notice as you work that events may follow each other without one causing the next. Also, notice that an effect can become the cause of another event.*

CAUSE		EFFECT
1. Arachne becomes famous as a weaver.	2. What happened?	3. People say Athene must have taught Arachne.
4.	5.	6.
7.	8. Why?	9. The old woman shows herself to be Athene.

10.	11.	12. Arachne competes with Athene.

Enrichment: The Craft of Weaving

Weaving is an ancient craft that has been practiced in almost every culture. Weaving can be done for the creation of useful objects, such as clothing, or it can be for purely decorative or artistic purposes, as in "Arachne." Usually weavers and other craftspeople combine the two purposes, creating useful objects that are also beautiful. Other crafts that combine usefulness and beauty are pottery, glassblowing, wood carving, and basket weaving. Each craft uses special tools and equipment and requires special skills.

A. DIRECTIONS: *The following technical terms about the craft of weaving are mentioned in "Arachne." Use a dictionary to find the definition of each word as it relates to weaving. Using your own words, write the definition on the lines.*

1. spin: _____

_____

_____

2. loom: _____

_____

3. embroidery: _____

_____

_____

4. shuttle: _____

_____

_____

5. distaff: _____

_____

_____

6. skein: _____

_____

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