

Classical Mythology

UNIT 1

What is FICTION?

Prose created from the imagination, not presented as fact. It may be based on a true story or situation.

Prose is “written or spoken language in its ordinary form, without metrical structure”

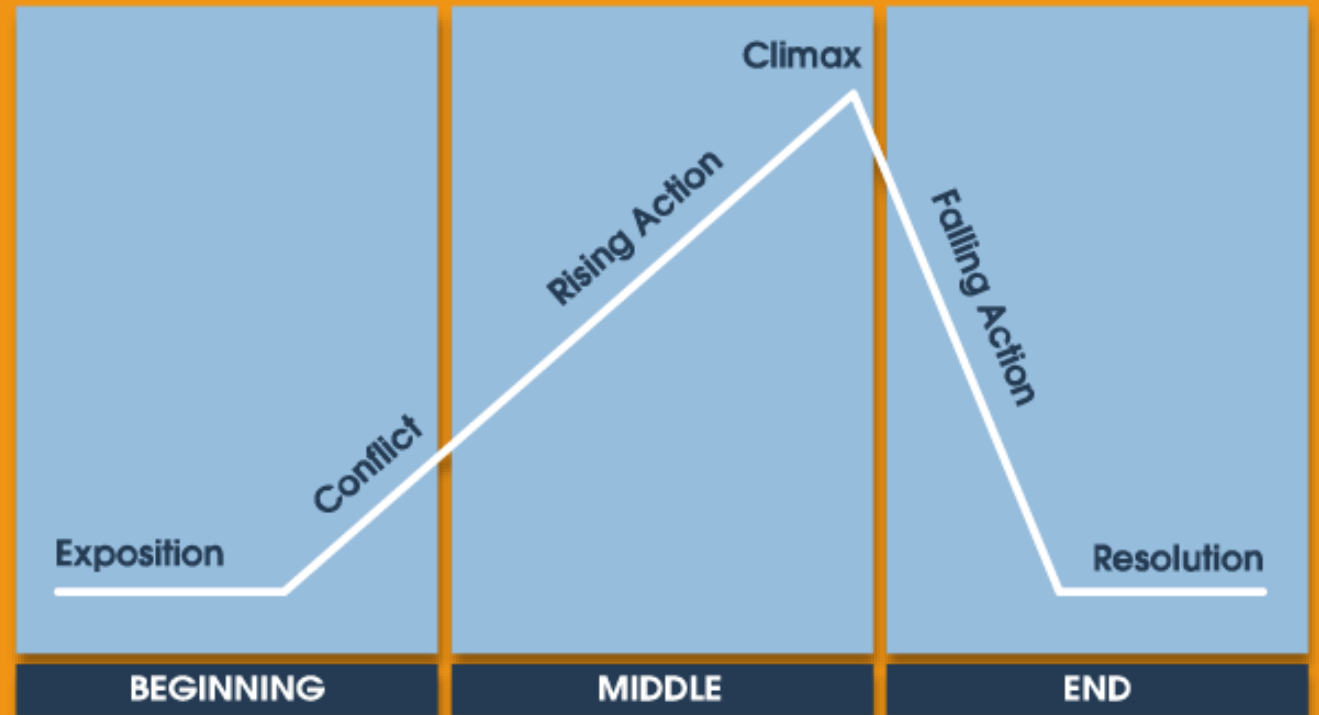
Can you name genres within fiction?

What are the ELEMENTS of fiction?

- Plot
- Setting
- Character
- Conflict
- Point of View
- Theme/Message
- Literary Devices

What is PLOT?

Plot is the literary element that describes the structure of the story. It shows the casual arrangements of events and actions within a story.



What is THEME?

- The message or insight revealed about life within a literary work.
- Seldom stated directly by the author
 - Must be interpreted by the reader
- MORE THAN ONE WORD. (That's a topic)
 - Underlying message about the topic

What is ORAL TRADITION?

It is the first and most widespread form of human communication.

It is a dynamic medium for evolving, storing, and transmitting art, knowledge, ideas.

- Fables
- Folk/Tall Tales
- Fairy Tales
- Myths
- Legends

FABLES

- Definition: A brief story that sets forth some pointed statement of truth
- Origin: Found in almost every country
 - Handed down from generation to generation as oral literature
- Content: Usually contains incidents that relate to the unusual, sometimes supernatural - Contains a moral or lesson
- Characters: often animals or plants given human qualities, but people and supernatural figures may appear
- Structure: lacks development of characters
- Examples: Aesop's fables, The Tortoise and the Hare

FOLK TALES / TALL TALES

- Definition: deal with heroes, adventure, magic or romance
Some are tall tales- stories that contain hyperbole. (Ex: Paul Bunyan)
- Origin: American folk literature
 - Oral tradition (word of mouth); no known author
- Content: Based on hard-working people
 - Bragging and exaggeration - HYPERBOLE (tall tale)
 - Humorous or witty
 - Seemingly impossible feats
- Characters: people, fictional characters
 - Told to make the narrator seems as if he/she was part of the story
- Examples: Ali Baba, Johnny Appleseed, Jack & the Beanstalk

FAIRY TALES

- Definition: fictional story that may feature folkloric characters and enchantments
- Origin: almost all cultures
 - Oral tradition and then written and recorded
- Content: Associated with children
- Characters: fairies, goblins, elves, trolls, giants, gnomes, talking animals, princes, princesses, witches, wicked stepmothers, fairy godmothers, etc.
- Structure: Contains elements of plot
- Examples: Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, etc.

LEGENDS

- Definition: stories about the past. They are often based on facts, but storytellers have added imaginative details.
- Origin: found in almost all cultures
 - Passed on through oral tradition
- Content: occurrence of miracles
- Characters: real people going through imaginary events
- Structure: Includes element of plot
- Examples: Beowulf, Robin Hood
 - George Washington cutting down the cherry tree

MYTHS

- Definition: a sacred narrative explaining how the world and humankind came to be in their present form
- Origin: Almost all cultures
 - Passed through oral tradition
- Content: Closely linked to religion and the explaining of why something is; establishes models for behavior
- Characters: Gods or supernatural heroes
- Structure: Elements of plot, personification
- Examples: Greek mythology, Roman mythology

KWL

| What do I KNOW about mythology? | What do I WANT to know about mythology? | What did I LEARN about mythology? |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Include at least 3 bullet points. | Include at least 3 bullet points. May be written as questions. | Leave blank for now. |

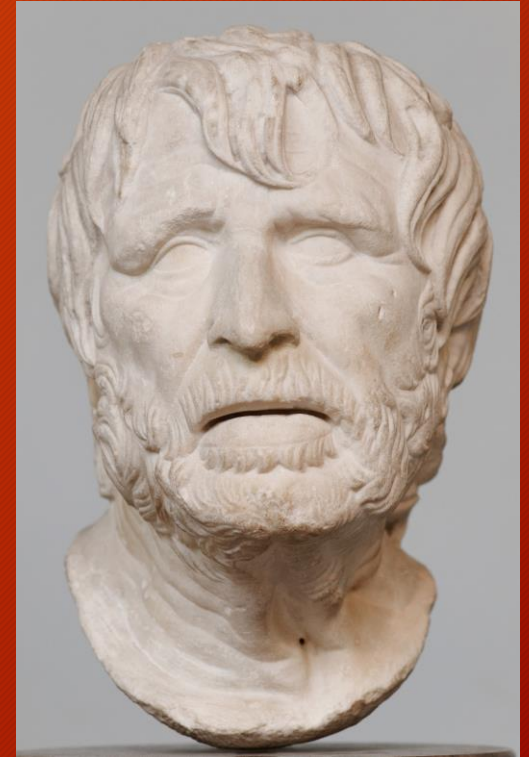
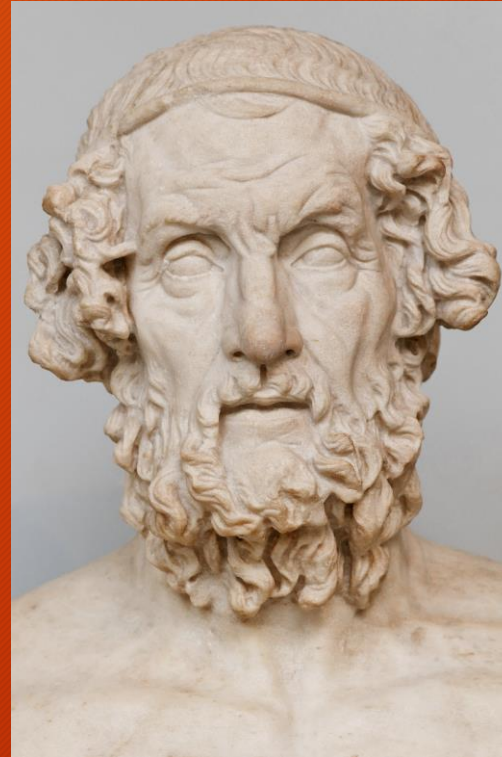
More about MYTHS

- Show the relationship between gods and people
- Form of early science to the Greeks because it helped explain the unexplainable.
 - How is the world created?
 - Why are there separate seasons?
 - Why do we fall in love?
 - What causes lightning and other natural phenomena/disasters?



Greek Mythology

Homer and Hesiod are generally considered the earliest Greek poets whose work has survived



Beliefs and Characteristics

- Death is inevitable and final, so the goal was to become a legend through great deeds.
- The Greeks were tough, restless, ambitious, hard-living, and imaginative.
- Honor was extremely important, and the Greeks were very vengeful if wronged.
- The gods mirrored human feelings and physical form.
- Their flaws were pride, cruelty, stubbornness, impulsiveness, lust for power, and a desire to be like the gods.

Mount Olympus

- Home of the Gods
- Floating mountain in the sky
- Olympians overthrew the Titans
 - Named after their dwelling place



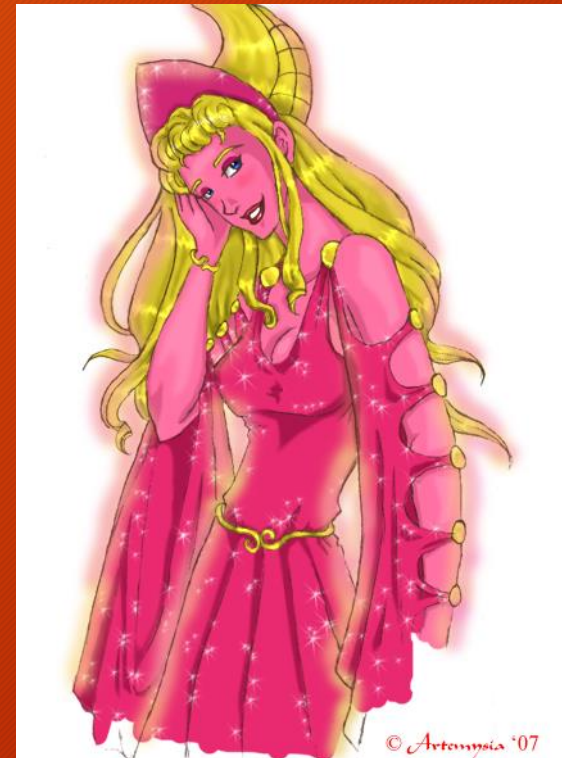
Zeus

- Supreme ruler of the Gods
- Weapon: thunderbolt
- Falls in love frequently and acts on it...even though he's married.



Hera

- Zeus' wife and sister
- Protector of marriage and married women
- Symbols: peacock, cow
- Jealous of Zeus' affairs



Hades

- Lord of the Underworld
- Ruler of the dead



Persephone

- Goddess of spring
- Kidnapped by Hades, later made Queen of the Underworld
- Half the year on Earth / half the year in Hades



Poseidon

- Ruler of the seas and oceans
- Symbol: trident
- Zeus' brother



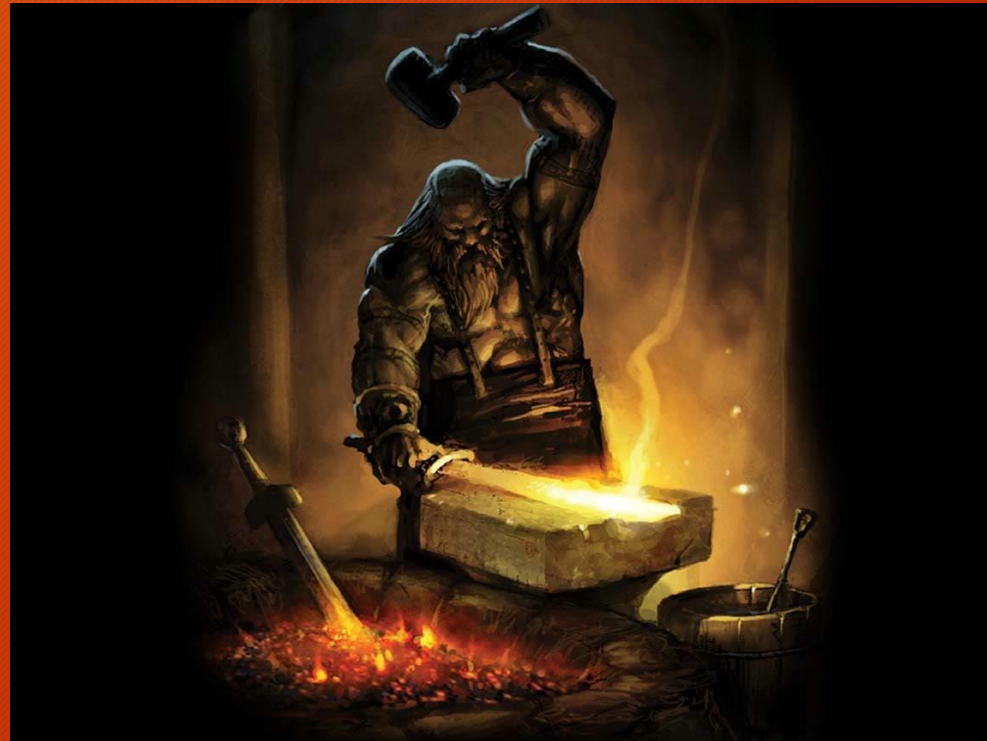
Aphrodite

- Goddess of Love and Beauty
- Symbols: shell, mirror, dove, swan
- Wife of Hephaestus



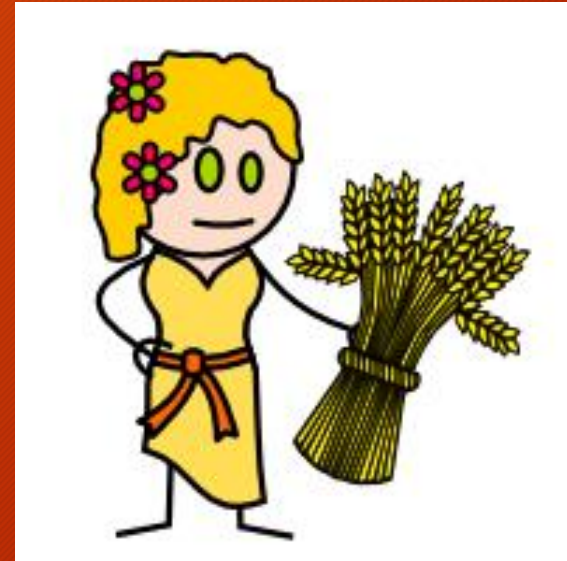
Hephaestus

- God of fire
- Made Zeus' lightning bolts and armor for war
- Symbol: forge



Demeter

- Goddess of agriculture
- Symbol: wheat
- Mood affects the seasons



Hestia

- Goddess of the home
- Symbol: torch
- Zeus' sister



Ares

- God of War
- Symbols: vulture; weapons
- Son of Zeus and Hera
- Unpopular amongst the gods



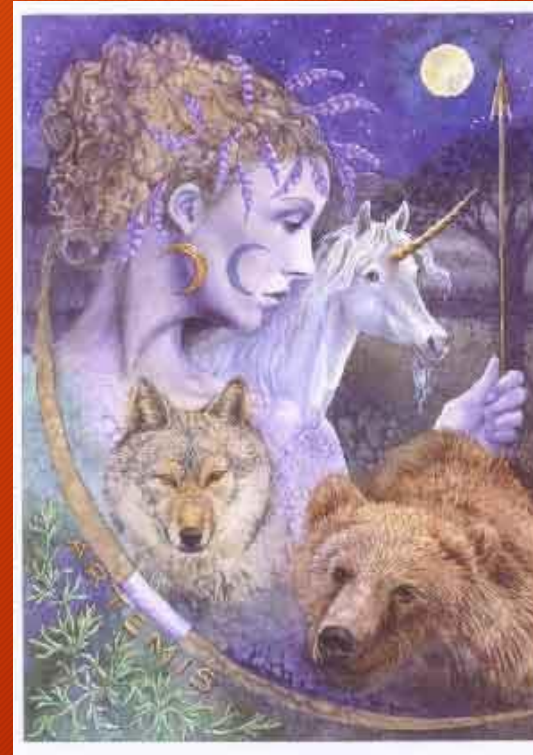
Apollo

- God of light, truth, music, and poetry
- Symbols: bow and arrow; sun chariot; harp
- No false words
- Twin brother of Artemis



Artemis

- Goddess of the moon and the hunt
- Symbols: crescent moon; bow and arrow
- Apollo's twin sister



Hermes

- Messenger of the gods
- Symbols: winged helmet; sandals
- Created the lyre (harp) for Apollo
- Appears the most often of all gods

