

Lesson Plan: Myth in the Modern World

OBJECTIVE: Students will better understand Greek myth by interpreting it through the lens of the modern world.

TIME: 45 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- “Dionysus: Who Let Him Run a Summer Camp?” from *Demigods and Monsters*
- *The Lightning Thief* (optional)
- “The Language of the Heart” from *Demigods and Monsters* (optional)

INTRODUCTION: It can be hard to imagine the Greek gods the way the ancient Greeks must have. For one thing, they’re always running around in a country you probably haven’t visited, doing things (like hunting with bows and arrows) that seem silly today. But the ideas behind Greek myths and the gods that populate them are timeless. Today we’re going to bring the gods into the twenty-first century.

ACTIVITY:

Before class, have students read “Dionysus: Who Let Him Run a Summer Camp?” (*Optional:* Also have students read “The Language of the Heart.”)

Review “Dionysus: Who Let Him Run a Summer Camp?” together in class. What is Mr. D like? What was Dionysus like? What do they have in common?

Discuss how Rick Riordan “updates” Dionysus for the twenty-first century. (*Optional:* discuss other characters in the Percy Jackson series, if you have read *The Lightning Thief*.)

Have students “update” a Greek god that you’ve studied in class, together or in groups. You can give each group a different god, or have everyone use the same god. First, have them make a list of the basic qualities of the god: what is the god like? What are they the god of? How do they act? Then, have them imagine what the god would be like if they were around today.

Optional Homework: Write a short story or draw a picture featuring the updated god.