

BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY STUDY GUIDE



Intro Questions about the website

- 1) What year was this book published?
- 2) What is the subtitle of the book?
- 3) Do some sleuthing on the internet. Who was Thomas Bulfinch? Give a brief biography. (use: <http://www.online-literature.com/bulfinch/>)

Chapter 1

- 1) Is the ancient Greek religion still alive today?
- 2) In the second paragraph, Bulfinch gives two reasons why he is telling us these ancient stories.
- 3) How did the Greeks picture their world? Give details.
- 4) What is another name for Greece?
- 5) What are two other names for the Elysian Plain?
- 6) Where did the gods live?
- 7) What did Vulcan (Hephaestus) do?
- 8) List the Titans
- 9) What is ironic about who Aphrodite married?
- 10) Describe the Muses.
- 11) Describe the Graces.
- 12) Describe the Fates.
- 13) Describe the Furies.
- 14) Describe the Satyrs.
- 15) Who supposedly fled to Italy and reigned during a "Golden Age?"
- 16) Give two other names for Hephaestus.
- 17) Give two other names for Dionysus.
- 18) What did the Romans believe about "Genius" and "Juno?"

Chapter 2: Prometheus and Pandora

- 1) According to the Greeks, the world began from what?
- 2) Did the Greeks say which god arranged the earth?
- 3) Who formed man from earth and water?
- 4) What qualities did he give to man?
- 5) Who was Prometheus?
- 6) What was so significant about the gift of fire?
- 7) Who was Pandora?
- 8) Why was she made?
- 9) List and briefly describe the ages of man.
- 10) What did Zeus do to rid the earth of evil people
- 11) Which two humans were spared?
- 12) How did they repopulate the earth?

- 13) How was Prometheus ultimately punished by Zeus?
- 14) What did Prometheus need to do in order to be freed?

Chapter 3: Apollo and Daphne – Pyramus and Thisbe – Cephalus and Procris

Apollo and Daphne

- 1) Who was Apollo's first love?
- 2) What sort of arrow did Cupid shoot Daphne with? Apollo?
- 3) When Daphne asked her father for help, what did she become?

Pyramus and Thisbe

- 4) Why couldn't Pyramus and Thisbe get married?
- 5) How did they converse?
- 6) Where were they going to meet to run away?
- 7) What was the misunderstanding at the spring?
- 8) What Shakespearean play is this reminiscent of?
- 9) What happened to the white mulberry tree?
- 10) What Shakespearean play has a comedic interlude of the story of Pyramus and Thisbe?

Cephalus and Procris

- 11) Who were Cephalus and Procris?
- 12) What happened to the fox and dog?
- 13) What was the misunderstanding that led to Procris' death?

Chapter 7: Glaucus and Scylla

- 1) Who was Glaucus?
- 2) Describe the effect of the herb.
- 3) How was Glaucus changed in both form and mind?
- 4) Who was Scylla? Describe her.
- 5) What did Scylla do when Glaucus professed his love to her?
- 6) What was Circe's advice to Glaucus?
- 7) What did Circe do to Scylla?
- 8) What became of Scylla?

Chapter 16: Monsters. Giants, Sphinx, Pegasus, and Chimaera, Centaurs, Griffin, and Pygmies

- 1) Define a mythological "monster."
- 2) Where did the Olympian gods flee to and how did they hide when they left Greece?
- 3) Why did Laius abandon his son?
- 4) Describe the sphinx.
- 5) What happened to Oedipus?
- 6) How was Pegasus formed?

- 7) Describe the Chimaera.
- 8) How was Bellerophon able to conquer the Chimaera?
- 9) Describe centaurs.
- 10) Who was Chiron?
- 11) Describe the pygmies.
- 12) Describe the griffin.

Chapter 23: Penelope

- 1) What type of “beauty” did Penelope possess?
- 2) How long were Ulysses and Penelope married before the Trojan War began?
- 3) Describe how Penelope put off/detained her suitors.

Beyond the Book.

- 1) What is Ulysses’s other name?
- 2) What famous story by Homer is all about this hero?

Chapter 27: The Trojan War

- 1) Who was not invited to the marriage of Peleus and Thetis?
- 2) What did she do in revenge?
- 3) How did Venus (Aphrodite) get judged “the fairest?”
- 4) What oath was made on behalf of Helen?
- 5) How did Ulysses try to get out of going to the Trojan War?
- 6) How did Achilles try to get out of the war?
- 7) List some of the famous Grecian warriors.
- 8) List some of the famous Trojan warriors.
- 9) What did Agamemnon have to do in order to get the wind to flow on the ocean?
- 10) What sides did the gods take in the war?
- 11) Who was Patroclus and what happened to him?
- 12) Who sought revenge for Patroclus’ death?
- 13) How did Athena trick Hector as he was battling Achilles?
- 14) Why didn’t Hector’s body get beaten up while Achilles dragged it around the city walls?

Chapter 28: The Fall of Troy – Return of the Greeks – Agamemnon, Orestes, and Electra

- 1) The story of the Iliad ends with what?
- 2) How did Achilles die?
- 3) Which hero was judged the most deserving of Achilles’ armor?
- 4) Who was Philoctetes?
- 5) How could Troy “be taken?”
- 6) What was the significance of the statue called the “Palladium?”
- 7) Describe the deception surrounding the Trojan horse.
- 8) What happened to Menelaus and Helen after the fall of Troy?

- 9) What happened to Agamemnon after the fall of Troy?
- 10) Who was Orestes? Briefly summarize his story.
- 11) Where exactly is Troy located?