

CTJan27 School Of English and Mathematics
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Genre: A Myth

Literary Elements:

A Moral

Hyperbole

Writing:
A Dialogue

Vocabulary:
Synonyms

Grammar:
Sentences



Name: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

Comprehension

Genre

A **Myth** is a story that often explains occurrences in nature through the intervention of gods and goddesses.

Literary Elements

A **Moral** is a practical lesson contained in the narrative. **Hyperbole** is the deliberate use of exaggeration for emphasis. Myths often use hyperbole to describe human weaknesses.

The Golden Touch

retold by Mary Pope Osborne

Bacchus, the merry god, raised his goblet.

"To you, King Midas," he said, "and because you have been so hospitable to me—ask for anything you wish, and I will grant it to you."

"What an idea!" said Midas. "Anything I wish?"

"Indeed, anything," said Bacchus.

"Anything?"

"Yes! Yes!"

"Ah, well," said the king, chuckling. "Of course, there's only one thing: I wish that everything I touch would turn to gold!" Midas looked sideways at Bacchus, for he couldn't believe such a gift could really be his.

"My friend, you already have all the gold you could possibly want," said Bacchus, looking disappointed. "Why do you want more?"

"Oh, no! I don't!" said Midas. "One never has enough gold!"

"Well, if that's what you wish for, I suppose I will have to grant it," said Bacchus. Bacchus soon took his leave. As Midas waved good-bye to him, his hand brushed an oak twig

hanging from a tree—and the twig turned to gold!

The king screamed with joy, then shouted after Bacchus, "My wish has come true! Thank you! Thank you!"

The god turned and waved, then disappeared down the road.

Midas looked around excitedly. He leaned over and picked a stone up from the ground—and the stone turned into a golden nugget! He kicked the sand—and the sand turned to golden grains!





King Midas threw back his head and shouted, "I'm the richest man in the world!" Then he rushed about his grounds, touching everything. And everything, *everything* turned to gold: ears of corn in his fields! Apples plucked from trees! The pillars of his mansion!

When the king's servants heard him shouting, they rushed to see what was happening. They found their king dancing wildly on his lawn, turning the grass to glittering blades of gold. Everyone laughed and clapped as Midas washed his hands in his fountain and turned the water

to a gleaming spray!

Finally, exhausted but overjoyed, King Midas called for his dinner. His servants placed a huge banquet meal before him on his lawn. "Oh, I'm so hungry!" he said as he speared a piece of meat and brought it to his mouth.

But suddenly King Midas realized his wish may not have been as wonderful as he thought—for the moment he bit down on the meat, it, too, turned to gold. Midas laughed uneasily, then reached for a piece of bread. But as soon as his hands touched the bread, it also became a hard, golden nugget! Weak with dread, Midas reached for his goblet of water. But alas! His lips touched only hard, cold metal. The water had also turned to gold.

Covering his head and moaning, King Midas realized his great wish was going to kill him. He would starve to death or die of thirst!

"Bacchus!" he cried, throwing his hands toward heaven. "I've been a greedy fool! Take away your gift! Free me from my golden touch! Help me, Bacchus!"

The sobbing king fell off his chair to his knees. He beat his fists against the ground, turning even the little anthills to gold. His servants grieved for him, but none dared go near him, for they feared he might accidentally turn them to gold, too!

As everyone wailed with sorrow, Bacchus suddenly appeared on the palace lawn. The merry god stood before the sobbing king for a moment, then said, "Rise, Midas."

Stumbling to his feet, King Midas begged Bacchus to forgive him and to take away the curse of the golden touch.

"You were greedy and foolish, my friend," said Bacchus. "But I will forgive you. Now go and wash yourself in the Pactolus River that runs by Sardis, and you'll be cleansed of this desire to have more gold than anyone else!"

King Midas did as Bacchus said. He washed in the Pactolus, leaving behind streams of gold in the river's sands. Then he returned home and happily ate his dinner.

And that is why the sands of the Pactolus River were golden.

Modern Words with Greek Origins

Arachnid: term for spider groups; from Arachne, the girl whom Athena turned into a spider

iridescent: like the colours in a rainbow; from Iris, the rainbow goddess

mnemonic: a way to remember something; from Mnemosyne, goddess of memory

QUESTIONS

1. How is this story a myth?

2. Myths often use hyperbole to describe human weaknesses. In this myth, hyperbole is used to describe

- A. regret
- B. happiness
- C. sadness
- D. greed

3. *"To you, King Midas," he said, "and because you have been so hospitable to me—ask for anything you wish, and I will grant it to you."* The word 'hospitable' is close in meaning to being

- A. mean
- B. sick
- C. welcoming
- D. sincere

4. In the sentence above, the marks that show dialogue are called

- A. speech marks.
- B. quotation marks.
- C. dialogue marks.
- D. all of the above.

5. To show dialogue between characters, each dialogue is placed

- A. on the same line.
- B. on a new line.
- C. in a paragraph.
- D. in the story.

6. The word _____ denotes who is speaking in a dialogue.

- A. gave
- B. now
- C. King Midas
- D. said

7. What was the problem in this story?

8. How was the problem solved?

9. Characters that change during the story are called 'round characters'. Is King Midas a 'round' character? Why?

10. What is the moral of this myth?

Grammar: Sentences:

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. Every sentence begins with a capital letter.

- A sentence fragment does not express a complete thought.
- A declarative sentence makes a statement. It ends with a period.
- An interrogative sentence asks a question. It ends with a question mark.

Read each sentence or phrase below. Write *S* beside it if it is a sentence.

Write *F* if it is a fragment. Then add words to the fragments so that they express complete thoughts.

1. Toni and Beth went hiking in the woods yesterday. _____

2. Lost their way.

3. Forgot flashlights and water.

4. Why did their parents allow them to go? _____

5. Luckily for the girls.

Put the correct punctuation mark at the end of each sentence.

6. Name several safety tips for hiking and climbing ____

7. Wearing proper clothing and footwear is a basic tip ____

8. Why is it important to carry water ____

9. Penny wants to know more about camping ____

10. Why must climbers sign up before beginning their climb ____

- An imperative sentence gives a command or makes a request. It ends with a period.
- An exclamatory sentence expresses strong feeling. It ends with an exclamation point.

Read each sentence. Write whether it is *declarative*, *interrogative*, *imperative*, or *exclamatory*.

1. What a wonderful camping trip that was! ____

2. Think about what Peter said about staying safe on a hike. ____

3. How many times have you climbed in the Shawangunk Mountains? ____

4. Don't delay getting down the mountain before sunset. ____

5. Richard couldn't decide whether or not to go. ____

6. I'm so excited to be on this hike! ____

Write down examples of each of the four types of sentences from the story.

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Vocabulary: Synonyms

Synonyms are words with similar meanings. You'll find that most words have synonyms. Some words have opposite meanings. We call these words *antonyms*.

Task 1: Write A for antonyms. Write S for synonyms.

1. ____ courteous / polite	8. ____ fortunate/ lucky
2. ____ bold / shy	9. ____ know / recognise
3. ____ adult / child	10. ____ increase / decrease
4. ____ worthless / valuable	11. ____ stretch / shrink
5. ____ perhaps / maybe	12. ____ lawyer / attorney
6. ____ vacant / empty	13. ____ similar / different
7. ____ truth / fiction	14. ____ north / south

Task 2: Replace each boldface word with a synonym. Write the synonyms on the lines. Choose

Black Bears

The black bear is sometimes called the "clown of the woods." This bear may perform funny actions such as standing on its head or doing what looks like a dance. Black bears can, however, be a danger! They have long, heavy claws and can run fast. Don't try escaping up a tree! Bears are good tree climbers. Luckily, black bears are shy. Unless a bear is wounded, has been teased, or is defending its babies, it is unlikely to attack people.

synonyms that would work well in the context of the paragraph.

WORD

1. woods
2. funny
3. danger
4. fast
5. good
6. luckily
7. shy
8. wounded
9. defending
10. babies

SYNONYM

Task 3: Think of synonyms for the words below taken from the story, 'The Golden Touch'.

1. glittering _____
2. mansion _____
3. chuckling _____

4. goblet

SPELLING: Word Endings: "sure," "cian," "cious," & "tious"

This group of word endings all sound as if they contain the letters "sh," yet none of them do. Just like the word "sure," the word ending "sure" is pronounced "shur." The word ending "cian" is pronounced "shun." This word ending always means a job title. The word endings "cious" and "tious" are pronounced "shus."

WORD	SYLLABLES	IN CONTEXT
leisure	lei•sure	What do you like to do during your leisure time?
pressure	pres•sure	Apply pressure above the wound to slow down the bleeding.
treasure	trea•sure	The pirates hid their treasure on an island.
pleasure	plea•sure	It would be a pleasure to go with you to the concert.
reassure	re•as•sure	Let me reassure you that every precaution is being taken.
magician	ma•gi•cian	The magician performed nine amazing tricks.
musician	mu•si•cian	My dad is a musician; he plays the saxophone.
politician	pol•i•ti•cian	The politician shook hands with everyone in the room.
technician	tech•ni•cian	The computer technician finally figured out what was wrong.
precious	pre•cious	Diamonds, emeralds, and rubies are precious gems.
delicious	de•li•cious	A delicious aroma drifted out from the restaurant.
spacious	spa•cious	Her apartment isn't cramped at all; in fact, it's very spacious.
cautiously	cau•tious•ly	The woman cautiously drove through the fog.
infectious	in•fec•tious	Chickenpox is very infectious; almost everyone catches it.
repetitious	rep•e•ti•tious	This speech is boring because it's too repetitious.

Choose the best spelling word to complete each sentence. Use each word once.

- We smelled the _____ aroma of chocolate chip cookies baking.
- A senator is a _____; he or she must be elected to office.
- Did he _____ you that your ferret will recover?
- Your report is too _____. You mention the same dates over and over again.
- Resist _____ from friends to use alcohol or tobacco.
- During my _____ time, I play basketball.
- The child _____ peeked around the door.
- The _____ needed new strings for her guitar.
- The children got great _____ by riding every ride at least three times.
- Her laughter was so _____ that soon we were all giggling, too.
- Next the _____ pulled a dove out of a clear glass vase!
- The _____ chest held gold and silver coins, pearls, and gems.
- Since the office was so _____, we had plenty of room to spread out.
- The _____ on duty repaired the computer.
- That bracelet is very _____ to me because it belonged to my late grandmother.

Writing Dialogue in a Narrative

Dialogue is the words spoken by the characters in a story. Well-written dialogue can help bring characters and events to life. What characters say, and how they say it, tells a lot about them.

Dialogue can help make a story lifelike and exciting. Read the passage below. Think about the message the dialogue gives about the characters.

Uncle Nachum had a joke or witty remark for every occasion, telling them in his hoarse voice and enjoying what he said with a hearty laugh. . . .As I watched him at his tricks, he would throw me one of his clever questions, such as, "How many ends does a stick have?"

"Two!" I answered.

"And half a stick?"

"One!" I loudly declared.

And then Uncle Nachum would rock with great, thundering laughter. How did that short body come by such a tremendous laugh? When he laughed it seemed the walls laughed too.

Benjamin Tene, *In the Shade of the Chestnut Tree*

Benjamin Tene, *In the Shade of the Chestnut Tree*

Write a Dialogue

Write a conversation between two characters of different ages, backgrounds, or personalities.

PURPOSE: To use dialogue for characterization

AUDIENCE: Your class

LENGTH: At least 8 lines of dialogue

WRITING RUBRICS: To write effective dialogue, you should

- use dialogue that reveals character
- use phrases that identify speakers
- indent and punctuate correctly to indicate clearly who is speaking

ANSWERS:

Comprehension

1. How is this story a myth?

The merry god Bacchus intervenes to teach the mortal King Midas, a lesson for being greedy and foolish. This myth explains why the sands of the Pactolus River were golden.

2. Myths often use hyperbole to describe human weaknesses. In this myth, hyperbole is used to describe

D. greed

3. "To you, King Midas," he said, "and because you have been so hospitable to me—ask for anything you wish, and I will grant it to you." The word 'hospitable' is close in meaning to being

C. welcoming

4. In the sentence above, the marks that show dialogue are called

D. all of the above.

5. To show dialogue between characters, each dialogue is placed

B. on a new line.

6. The word _____ denotes who is speaking in a dialogue.

D. said

7. What was the problem in this story?

King Midas wishes for whatever he touches to turn to gold. This proved a problem as he could not eat or drink and he feared that he would starve to death or die of thirst.

8. How was the problem solved?

King Midas begged Bacchus to forgive him and lift the curse of the golden touch. Bacchus forgives him and advises him to wash himself in the Pactolus River.

9. Characters that change during the story are called 'round characters'. Is King Midas a 'round' character? Why?

Yes, at the beginning of the story, King Midas was greedy and foolish to wish for the golden touch, however at the end he learned his lesson and was happy to be free of the golden touch.

10. What is the moral of this myth?

The moral is not to be greedy and wish for more than you need.

GRAMMAR

Read each sentence or phrase below. Write *S* beside it if it is a sentence. Write *F* if it is a fragment. Then add words to the fragments so that they express complete thoughts.

1. Toni and Beth went hiking in the woods yesterday. *S*

2. Lost their way. *F*; Answers will vary.

3. Forgot flashlights and water. *F*; Answers will vary.

4. Why did their parents allow them to go? *S*

5. Luckily for the girls. *F*; Answers will vary.

Put the correct punctuation mark at the end of each sentence.

6. Name several safety tips for hiking and climbing .

7. Wearing proper clothing and footwear is a basic tip .

8. Why is it important to carry water ?

9. Penny wants to know more about camping .

10. Why must climbers sign up before beginning their climb ?

Read each sentence. Write whether it is *declarative*, *interrogative*, *imperative*, or *exclamatory*.

1. What a wonderful camping trip that was! *exclamatory*
2. Think about what Peter said about staying safe on a hike. *imperative*
3. How many times have you climbed in the Shawangunk Mountains? *interrogative*
4. Don't delay getting down the mountain before sunset. *imperative*
5. Richard couldn't decide whether or not to go. *declarative*
6. I'm so excited to be on this hike! *exclamatory*

Vocabulary

Task 1:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. S | 6. S | 11. A |
| 2. A | 7. A | 12. S |
| 3. A | 8. S | 13. A |
| 4. A | 9. S | 14. A |
| 5. S | 10. A | |

Task 2: Answers may vary. Possible answers:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. forest | 6. fortunately |
| 2. humorous | 7. timid |
| 3. hazard | 8. hurt |
| 4. swiftly | 9. protecting |
| 5. skilful | 10. Cubs |

Task 3: Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. shining
2. palace
3. laughing
4. glass

Spelling

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. delicious | 9. pleasure |
| 2. politician | 10. infectious |
| 3. reassure | 11. magician |
| 4. repetitious | 12. treasure |
| 5. pressure | 13. spacious |
| 6. leisure | 14. technician |
| 7. cautiously | 15. precious |
| 8. musician | |