

## Greek Mythology – Review Questions

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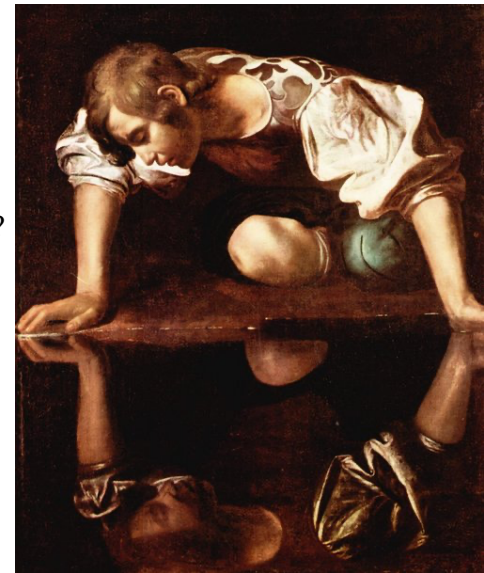
### Prometheus the Fire-Bringer

1. What was the earth like during the age of Cronus, the father of Zeus? How many ages of man has there been?
2. Why are humans unhappy under the rule of Zeus? How do they show their unhappiness?
3. How does Zeus want to solve the problem?
4. What does Prometheus say about this plan?
5. How will the gift of fire help the humans?
6. In Greek, Prometheus means “forethought,” or the ability to plan. Why is this a fitting name for the Titan?
7. Why does Prometheus feel “half sorrow, half pleasure” after building fire for humans?
8. How will the gift of Fire mark a change in the relationship between humans and gods?



### Narcissus

1. What does Narcissus do that causes him to be cursed?
2. How does Narcissus finally fall in love?
3. Why has Echo incurred the wrath of Hera? How does Hera get her revenge?
4. What does Echo do while Narcissus lies gazing at the object of his love?
5. How are Echo and Narcissus changed at the end of the myth?
6. How is what happens to Narcissus a fitting punishment for his pride?
7. What are two facts of nature explained by this myth?



### ICARUS AND DAEDALUS



1. Why does Daedalus want to leave Crete?
2. How does Daedalus plan to escape?
3. Paraphrase the warning he gives Icarus.
4. Why does Icarus fall from the sky?
5. Do you think that Daedalus was punished by the gods for daring an unusual deed? Explain.
6. Do you think Icarus was punished for disobeying his father? Explain.
7. What lesson does this myth teach?

# PHAETHON, SON OF APOLLO



1. Why does Phaethon go to Apollo's palace?
2. Why does Apollo urge Phaethon to make a wish different from his first one?
3. What is Phaethon's secret reason for his request?
4. What is the result of this request?
5. What natural features are explained in this myth?
6. Why do you think Phaethon feels that he had to "always be first in everything"?

## Baucis and Philemon

1. What is special about the oak and linden mentioned in the opening paragraph?
2. Why does Jupiter disguise himself as a poor traveler to visit Phrygia?
3. How do most of the people greet him and Mercury?  
How do Baucis and Philemon treat them differently?
4. How do the gods reward Baucis and Philemon? How do they treat the other Phrygians?
5. What transformation or changes do Baucis and Philemon undergo?
6. Why is it accurate to say that the gods reward Baucis and Philemon twice?





# The Origin of Seasons

1. How do the gods and goddesses treat one another and the humans?
2. How does this story explain the changing of seasons on the Earth?
3. Why do you think that Demeter spends so much time with Demophoon, even planning to make him immortal?
4. Demeter is able to force Zeus to change his mind about the wedding of Hades. What does this tell you about the power of the goddess of harvest?
5. What other stories do you know of in which someone eats a forbidden fruit and pays dearly for it?



## **Describe the effect of each event listed below.**

6. Gloomy Hades falls in love with beautiful Persephone.
7. Unhappy about the loss of her daughter, Demeter refuses to tend to her duties as the harvest goddess.
8. Demeter vows to let nothing grow until her daughter is returned.
9. While in the Underworld, Persephone eats seven seeds from a piece of fruit.



# Orpheus the Great Musician

1. If you were Orpheus, would you have looked back? Why or why not?
2. On the basis of this myth how do you think the ancient Greeks pictured the afterlife?
3. How did the same feeling that prompted Orpheus's decent into the Underworld also cause him to fail?
4. In the end, which is more powerful: love or death?
5. Do you think Hades was fair to Orpheus and Eurydice? Why?



# **King Midas and the Golden Touch**

1. What does Midas find in his garden and how does it get there?
2. Who gives Midas the golden touch?
3. How does Midas finally rid himself of the golden touch?
4. What natural occurrence does this tale explain?
5. At the end of the story Midas claims to have learned his lesson. What lesson do you think he has learned? What makes him content?
6. How would you word the wish for the golden touch in order to avoid Midas's problem?
7. Irony is the difference between what you expect to happen and what actually does happen. What irony do you see in Midas's story?

