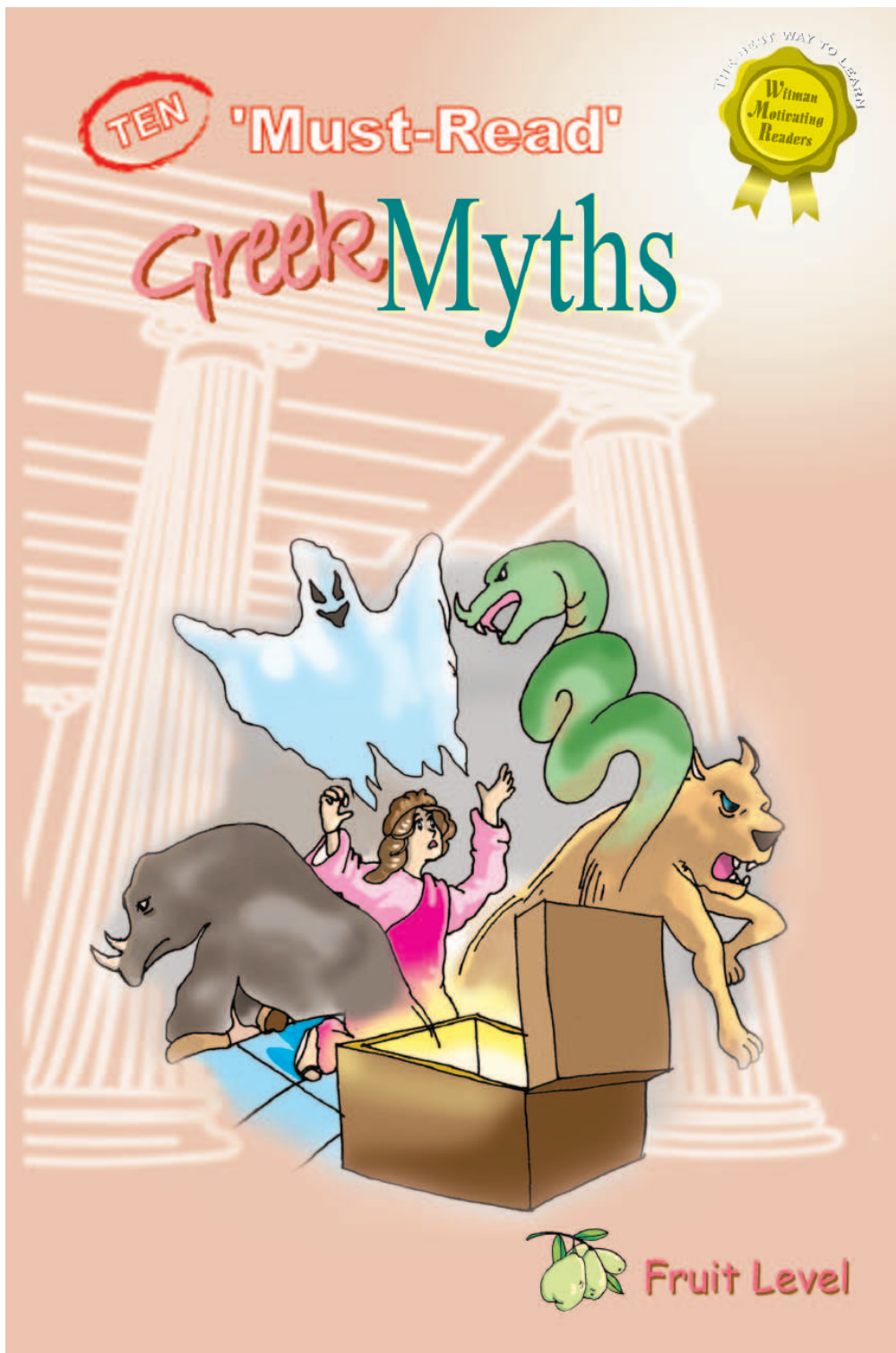# Answers for Fun Activities

TEN 'Must-Read'

Greek Myths

Fruit Level

MYTH 1 — Pandora's Box *(Student's book page 7)*

Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. Did you understand the story? Complete the following statement by circling the correct letter (A, B, or C).

    Pandora opened the box because ……

    A. Epimetheus asked her to do so.
    B. she was very curious.
    C. she needed something inside it.

2. Match the word with its related expression:

    a. Greed — I dislike him very much!
    b. Hatred — I feel really sad and hopeless!
    c. Envy — I want it all!
    d. Gloom — I wish I had her clothes!

Speaking Activity

3. Have you ever done something that caused problems? In one minute, describe to the class what you did and what problems it caused.

    e.g. I left the window open and the rain came in.

    Suggested answer:
    Once I told one of my friends about the bad things that another friend said about him. The first friend got very angry with the second friend, and then they both got very angry with me. It would have been better for all of us if I hadn't said anything. From now on, I'm going to keep things like that a secret.

Writing Activity

4. What do you think the creatures did after they left Pandora's box? Write a paragraph describing what one of the creatures did after it escaped.

    Suggested answer:
    Once Anger got out of the box, it couldn't wait to start ruining people's lives. It went into houses and made mothers angry with fathers, and siblings angry at each other. It went to visit Kings, and made countries mad at other countries and wanting to go to war. It even visited people who were alone, and made them angry with themselves. Everywhere Anger went, it made things worse than they had been.

MYTH 2 — The Midas Touch *(Student's book page 13)*

Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. True or False? Circle the correct answer.
   a. Midas wanted to be rich. **(True)** False
   b. Midas refused to let go of his golden touch. True **(False)**
   c. Dionysus thought that Midas' wish was foolish. **(True)** False

2. Who said the following statements? Write the name of the speaker on the line.

   I am a centaur and a friend of Dionysus.

   Ask me for a wish, and I will grant it.

   Silenus   Dionysus

3. Describe Midas by completing the sentences below.
   a. Midas is __greedy__ because he wanted to be rich forever.
   b. Midas is __foolish__ because he made a silly wish.

Speaking Activity

4. If you were Midas, what would you wish for? In one minute, tell your class your wish and explain why you would wish for it.

Suggested answer:
If I were Midas, I would have wished for another thousand wishes. That way, I would be able to change things whenever one of my wishes failed to make me happy. I would also be able to do things for my friends and family with my wishes. The only problem is that Dionysus might think asking for more wishes was cheating.

Writing Activity

5. Write a myth similar to The Midas Touch. Create a character that makes a wish and gets it. The wish should seem like a good thing at first, but in the end, it should turn out to cause problems.

Suggested answer:
A man found a bottle on the beach, and when he pulled out the cork, a genie granted him a wish. The man said he wanted to stay young forever, and the genie granted him his wish. The man was very happy for a while, because he never got older. But as the years went by, he realised that not aging was a curse. All the people he loved got older and died, but the man never changed. He realised that staying young forever meant spending forever alone.

MYTH 3 — The First Spider *(Student's book page 19)*

Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. What gift did Athena give the citizens of Athens? Circle the correct one.

2. After Athena added more details to the corners of her tapestry, she thought, *'I hope Arachne gets the message.'* What do you think she meant by this?

   Athena wanted Arachne to get the message that she might be punished for being too proud.

Speaking Activity

3. Pretend you are one of the nymphs who saw the contest. In a few sentences, describe what happened at the competition to a partner.

   Suggested answer:
   First, Athena showed the tapestry that she had created. We were amazed at how beautiful it was. We didn't think Arachne could possibly do any better. Then Arachne showed what she had woven. It was very good, but it made fun of the gods. I think Athena was very insulted.

Writing Activity

4. Athena was the goddess of war, wisdom and weaving. If you were a god or goddess, what would you control? In 50-60 words, describe what you would be the god or goddess of, and why.

   Suggested answer:
   If I could be a god, I would be the god of peace. War is a terrible thing, and if there is already a god of war (as many people believe), then the world needs a god of peace. I would stop nations from fighting whenever I saw them, and I would reward countries that solved their disagreements peacefully.

MYTH 4 — The Flight of Daedalus and Icarus *(Student's book page 25)*

Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. Complete the sentences below, by using the words from the box.

maze	wax	flock	slashed

a. Daedalus made wings out of feathers and __wax__.
b. The Minotaur lived in the __maze__.
c. Theseus __slashed__ the Minotaur's neck with his sword.
d. A __flock__ of birds flew overhead.

Writing Activity

3. When Daedalus first invented the wings, they seemed like a good idea. However, they turned out to be a bad idea. Can you think of another invention that seemed like a good idea, but ended up causing problems? Write a paragraph describing how the invention caused problems.

Suggested answer:
The atomic bomb seemed like a good idea when it was invented. The US and Japan were at war, and even though the bomb was very terrible, people thought using it would be better than having to invade Japan. But soon many countries discovered it, and now the world has to face the threat of an atomic war. Many people think it would be better if nuclear weapons had never been invented.

MYTH 5 — The Heroic Heracles   *(Student's book pages 30-31)*

🃏 Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. Write a sentence using the phrase 'Herculean task' to describe a difficult task.

   For example: Cleaning my room was a Herculean task.

   Fixing all the damage we have done to the world's environment will be a Herculean task.

   _____

2. Homonyms are words that have the same spelling but different meanings. Look at the homonyms from the story in the box below. What do they mean in the story? Do you know any other meanings? Fill in the chart.

Homonym	What does it mean in the story?	Can you think of another meaning?
a. Hide	skin of an animal	to go somewhere you can't be found
b. Face	to confront or challenge something	part of the body with a mouth and eyes

3. Answer the question below by circling the correct letter (A, B or C). Why did Iolaus shoot burning arrows at the stumps of the Hydra's snake heads?
   A. It was a good way to distract it.
   B. Its head was too scary to look at.
   C. It stopped two new heads from growing out of the stump.

4. Get into groups of three or four. Pretend each of you is one of the heads of the Hydra. Assign each head a different personality. Then write a role play, in which the heads discuss how to face Heracles. Perform your role play in front of the class.

   Hint: Some heads might want to run away, but others might suggest attacking Heracles.

   Suggested answer:
   Head 1 : Let's run away! Heracles is too strong.
   Head 2 : No, let's eat him and his nephew!
   Head 3 : I think we should try to talk to him.
   Head 4 : No, let's sneak up on him when he isn't looking!

Writing Activity

5. Pretend you are Heracles. Write a short letter to your mother, Alcmene, describing how you killed the Lion of Nemea or the Hydra. Write about one paragraph.

Suggested answer:

Dear _____mom_____,

As you probably know, I killed the Hydra, but it wasn't easy. Every time I cut off one of its heads, two new ones would grow in its place. Luckily, Iolaus was with me. I had him shoot a burning arrow into each neck after I cut off the first head. Soon, the Hydra only had one head left. I used a big rock to trap that head where it can't hurt anyone again.

Love,

Heracles

MYTH 6 — The Trojan Horse *(Student's book pages 36-37)*

🃏 Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. The events below are from the story, but they are in the wrong order. Put them in order by writing the numbers 1 to 6 in the spaces.

    __5__ The Trojans brought the horse inside their city.

    __3__ The Greek soldiers wanted to give up after ten years of fighting.

    __1__ Helen ran away with Paris.

    __4__ The Greek soldiers built a huge, hollow horse.

    __6__ The Greek soldiers came out of the horse and destroyed Troy.

    __2__ The Greek kings started a war with Troy to bring Helen back.

2. The words on the left are from the story. Draw a line from the words on the left to the words on the right with the same meaning.

    a. riches   empty

    b. hollow   showed

    c. bravery   wealth

    d. revealed   courage

Speaking Activity

3. Form a group with two or three of your classmates. Then, write a brief dialogue, showing the scene in which the Trojans discover the horse and decide what to do with it.

    Hint: You might want to start by saying: 'What's this? A giant horse?'

Suggested answer:
A : What's this? A giant horse?
B : What's it doing here?
C : It must be a gift from the Trojans.
A : Should we take it inside the walls?
B : I don't know. It might be dangerous.
C : Don't be silly, it's just a wooden horse.

Writing Activity

4. What is your Achilles' heel, or main weakness? Write a paragraph about it.
Suggested answer:

My Achilles' heel is that I put things off. I always think there will be plenty of time tomorrow to do what I should have done today. Putting things off like this causes me a lot of problems at school, because I often don't get my homework done on time. I need to stop procrastinating and get to work on things.
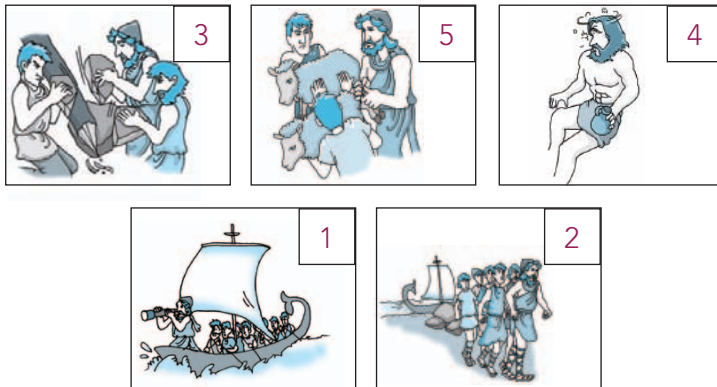
MYTH 7 — Odysseus' Adventures   *(Student's book pages 42-43)*

Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. Find the words in the story that have a similar meaning to the ones below. Then fill in the blanks.

   a. amazed = a s <u>t</u> <u>o</u> u n d <u>e</u> d

   b. stomachs = b e <u>l</u> <u>l</u> i <u>e</u> <u>s</u>

   c. trip = <u>j</u> o u <u>r</u> <u>n</u> e y

2. The pictures below are from the story, but they are in the wrong order. Put them in order by writing the numbers 1 to 5 in the boxes.

   3

   5

   4

   1

   2

3. Did you understand the story? Complete the following statement by circling the correct letter (A, B or C).

   The other Cyclopes didn't help Polyphemus because …
   A. they didn't like him.
   B. they thought that nothing was wrong.
   C. they wanted to go back to sleep.

Speaking Activity

4. If Polyphemus had asked the Greeks why they were in his cave — instead of attacking them — what would Odysseus have told him? Pick a partner and take turns saying what you think he would have said.

   Hint: you can start by saying: 'If I was Odysseus, I would have said …'

   Suggested answer:
   I would have said that we were on our way home from Troy, where we had fought a long and dangerous war. I would have told Polyphemus that we were very tired and hungry and that we would appreciate some food and a place to rest. I would have told him that we would be happy to share our wine in return for his hospitality.

Writing Activity

5. What do you think happened to Odysseus and his crew after they escaped from the island of the Cyclopes? Write a short story describing what happened.

Suggested answer:

After Odysseus and his men escaped from the island, they travelled for a long time. Once, their ship was lost in a storm, but Odysseus was able to use the stars to figure out where they were. Another time, they went ashore in Africa, where they met unusual people and saw many strange creatures. It was just one of the many adventures they had during their long journey back to Greece.

MYTH 8 — Perseus Versus Medusa *(Student's book page 49)*

Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. How did Perseus use the following gifts to carry out his mission to kill Medusa? Match the two columns.

    a. magic sack   •   • chop off Medusa's head
    b. winged sandals •   • become invisible
    c. cap   •   • catch Medusa's reflection
    d. sword   •   • fly over the sea
    e. shield   •   • carry Medusa's head

2. Are the following statements true or false? Circle the correct answer.

    a. Perseus tried to protect his mother.   (True)   False
    b. Medusa was ugly all her life.   True   (False)
    c. Perseus killed King Polydectes.   (True)   False

Speaking Activity

3. With your classmates, pretend you are the Grey Women — blind and sharing an eyeball. Take turns describing an object your eyeball sees. The rest should guess what you're describing.

    Hint: you can start by saying: 'I can see something thin and long. It is made out of wood …'

    Suggested answer:
    I see something round and shiny. Inside it is someone who looks just like me. (answer: a mirror)

Writing Activity

4. Imagine you are Medusa. Write a poem about what it's like to have snakes on your head instead of hair. Try to make your poem rhyme.

    Hint: You might want to start your poem with these lines:
    'I have snakes instead of hair,
    life really isn't fair …'

    Suggested answer:
    I have snakes instead of hair,
    life really isn't fair.
    They always move around,
    and they make a scary sound.
    I spend all my time alone,
    because my friends were turned to stone.

MYTH 9 — The Song of Orpheus *(Student's book pages 54-55)*

Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. Circle the correct answer to each question below.

   a. What gave Orpheus the courage to fetch Eurydice from the Underworld?

   A. Hades, the god of the Underworld, was his friend.

   (B.) He believed his musical skills would charm Hades into granting his wish.

   C. He knew exactly where Eurydice was staying in the Underworld and how to get her out.

   D. His mother, Calliope, was going to help him.

   b. Orpheus promised Hades that he would ……

   A. bring Eurydice back to the Underworld after six years

   B. return daily to the Underworld to sing and play his lyre

   (C.) not look back at Eurydice as they journeyed out of the Underworld

   D. love Eurydice forever

2. Find another word for 'song' in paragraph 2.

   melody

Speaking Activities

4. The story has a sad ending. Can you think of a happy ending for it? Write a new ending that starts:

Suggested answer:

> Orpheus and Eurydice both reached the top of the cliff … and even though he wanted to very much, Orpheus didn't look back at Eurydice until he knew it was safe. Then, they were finally together again. They lived for many years, and had three children. All the children were great musicians, just like their father.

Writing Activity

5. Rewrite the myth from the point of view of Eurydice in one paragraph.

   Hint: You might want to start: 'I loved Orpheus and his music so much that I married him.'

Suggested answer:

I loved Orpheus and his music so much that I married him. But our joy didn't last for long, because a snake killed me soon after our wedding. I was in the underworld, where all you do is dream forever, when I was suddenly woken up. Orpheus had come back for me! However, I guess our life together wasn't meant to be. We didn't even make it all the way out of the underworld before I was sent back down.

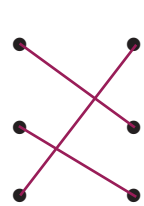# *MYTH 10* — Narcissus and his Echo   (Student's book pages 60-61)

Fun Activities

Reading Activities

1. Answer the questions below by circling the correct letter (A, B or C).

   a. Why did Echo talk to Hera?
      A. She didn't want Hera to catch Zeus with the nymphs.
      B. She wanted to amuse Hera with her stories.
      C. She didn't want to go home yet.

   b. Why did Nemesis punish Narcissus?
      A. He was mean to those who loved him.
      B. He looked too much like a god.
      C. He killed too many deer in the forest.

   c. Why didn't Narcissus realise that he was staring at his own reflection?
      A. The water was dirty and he couldn't see himself clearly.
      B. It was the first time he had seen his face.
      C. Echo distracted him.

2. How would you describe a narcissist? Put a tick (✔) in the spaces next to the words that describe this kind of person.

✔	proud	____	modest
____	timid	✔	arrogant
✔	vain	____	shy

3. Draw a line from each word to its correct definition.

   a. persistent   a person who likes someone else a lot

   b. good-looking   continuing to do something

   c. admirer   beautiful

Speaking Activity

4. If Narcissus were alive today, what would he be like? Imagine him as a famous actor or rock star. Get into pairs and share your ideas with your partner.

   Hint: You can start by saying: 'If Narcissus were alive today, he would be like …'

Suggested answer:
… a movie star.
They are all the same — in love with themselves.
Other people treat popular actors and actresses in the same way the people treated Narcissus.
They always stare at them, and they follow them everywhere they go.
Eventually, the movie stars fall in love with themselves in the same way Narcissus did.

Writing Activity

5. Imagine you are Narcissus looking at your reflection for the first time. What do you see? How do you feel? Write a brief paragraph describing what you see and how you feel about it.

Suggested answer:

Who is this person I see? I can't believe how handsome he is. I feel like I could look at this beautiful man all day. But it's strange that this man moves when I move, and does the same things I do. Could this person be me? Am I falling in love with myself?