

English: Knowledge Organiser 7.1 : Origins

7.1. Word Classes

Noun	Person, place, object or idea; Concrete nouns can be experienced with your senses; Abstract nouns are ideas (love, fear etc.)	Persephone was the daughter of Zeus.
Verb	Action word or state of being (to be, to make, to have are all verbs too)	Pandora opened the jar.
Adjective	A word that describes a noun	The Fates are personified as three old women.
Adverb	A word that describes a verb or adjective; there are adverbs of time, place and frequency	Arachne could spin skilfully .
Pronoun	A word that replaces a noun	Orpheus was so sad that he only played mournful music.
Conjunction	Words that connect phrases or clauses in a sentence	She wove all sorts of beautiful pictures into her cloth and people came from all around to see her beautiful cloth
Preposition	Words that show the relationship/position of things	Hope alone remained inside the jar Pandora had opened.

7.1. Literary Techniques

Allegory	A narrative in which a character, place, or event is used to deliver a broader message about real-world issues and occurrences	The story of Sisyphus could be considered an allegorical warning against having too much pride.
Allusion	An allusion is a reference, usually short, to a person, place, thing, event, or other literary work with which the reader is presumably familiar.	People make constant allusions to Greek mythology, for example 'a Sisyphean task' is one which seemingly endless and futile.
Metaphor	A figure of speech in which a word/phrase is applied to an object or action which it is not literally applicable	The sun in the west was a drop of burning gold that slid near and nearer the sill of the world.
Simile	A comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid; uses 'as' or 'like'	Narcissus sat like a statue gazing at his own reflection in the clear surface of the water.
Personification	Giving human qualities to something that is inhuman	The dark passages of the labyrinth soon devoured the hero.
Alliteration	Repetition of a letter or sound in a sentence; when the letter is 's', this is called sibilance	Echo's soft voice whispered, 'Who's there?' The sadness seemed to sink into the soil .
Foreshadowing	An advance sign or warning of what is to come in the future.	Weather motifs, such as storm clouds, wind, rain, clearing skies can foreshadow events in stories.

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7.1. Form and Structure: The Seven Basic Plots

Overcoming the Monster	These stories have a protagonist who has to destroy an antagonistic and often evil force which threatens them and/or their homeland.
Rags to Riches	These stories have a poor protagonist who gains power, wealth and/or a partner, loses it all and then gains it back, growing as a person as a result.
The Quest	These stories involve a protagonist and their companions setting out to get an important object or to an important location. They will face difficult temptations and obstacles along the way.
Voyage and return	These stories involve a protagonist going to a strange land, and overcoming the threats that they encounter on the way. When they return they are changed by their new experiences.
Comedy	Stories that have humorous characters, where the central theme is triumph over difficult or confusing situations. The result is a single clarifying event that reveals a successful and happy ending.
Tragedy	These stories use a protagonist's character flaw or great mistake as their undoing. Their unfortunate end creates pity at their foolishness and the fall of a fundamentally good character.
Rebirth	These stories involve an event which forces or leads to the protagonist having to change their ways, often becoming a better person, but not always.

The Hero	The protagonist, the key character around whom the story is told. They are not always stereotypically heroic and may even be a victim or someone seeking knowledge or treasure.
The Helper	The hero is often supported by a helper. This individual often possesses qualities that the hero is lacking.
The Villain	The antagonist, often showed to contrast with the Hero and struggles against them. They are typically morally bad.
The False Hero	A character that often tries to steal the Hero's thunder, is occasionally mistaken for the Hero.
The Donor	The character that gives something special to the Hero such as a magical weapon or some particular wisdom.
The Dispatcher	An early role in the story is that of the dispatcher, who sends the hero on their mission.
The Princess	This character is actually representative of what the Hero is seeking, she or it might be a reward for completing their journey or quest. The princess can be both an integral character or one that only appears right at the end.

7.1. Context

- **Greek mythology** is the body of myths originally told by the ancient **Greeks**, and a genre of Ancient Greek folklore. These stories concern the **origin and nature** of the world.
- The Greek myths were initially spread in an oral-poetic tradition (which means they were spoken/ sung) by singers starting in the 18th century BC; eventually the myths of the heroes of the **Trojan War** and its aftermath became part of the oral tradition of **Homer's** epic poems, **the Iliad** and **the Odyssey**. Two poems by **Homer's** near contemporary **Hesiod**, **the Theogony** and **the Works and Days**, contain accounts of the genesis of the world, the rise and fall of different rulers and human ages and the origin of human misery.
- **Greek mythology** has had an extensive influence on the culture, arts, and literature of **Western civilisation** and remains part of **Western heritage and language**. Poets and artists from ancient times to the present have gained inspiration from **Greek mythology** and have discovered contemporary significance and relevance in the themes.
- The **Romans** in particular were influenced by **Greek mythology**; **Ovid** was a **Roman** poet who wrote **Metamorphoses**, a 15 book poem of myths which continues to influence writers to the present day.
- **Homer**: Greek poet who is the presumed author of the Iliad and the Odyssey, two epic poems which have given us many of the Greek Myths we still read about today.
- **Hesiod**: Another Greek poet, active at the same time as Homer (between 750 and 650 BC). Another major source of Greek Mythology.
- **Ovid**: A Roman poet who lived from 43 BC to 17/18AD and wrote the Metamorphoses which comprises 11,995 lines, 15 books and over 250 myths, and chronicles the history of the world.



Homer

Hesiod

Ovid