Hello, and welcome to our Moore Square course on

Mr. Anderson’s Magnet Mythology is our look at myths and legends, stories, gods, heroes, monsters, and how these elements reveal truths about the people who believed them.

First, understand this class will be a lot of fun, but it will be a lot of work.

**Here is the breakdown as to how our class works:**

**Weeks 1-3:**  Review of the pantheon of gods and myths from Ancient Greece, and how they were adopted by the Romans. We will pay special attention to the Iliad and the Odyssey, the origin of the gods, and the Titanomachy. Be prepared to hear of Perseus and Medusa, Theseus and the minotaur, and Heracles and his twelve labors.

**Week 4:** The earliest traces of classical mythology from the first civilizations in the Western hemisphere. A look at Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt will introduce the Epic of Gilgamesh, the first flood story in written record, and the mummification and pyramids of the pharaohs.

**Week 5:**  Across the oceans and through the centuries were the Aztecs with a radically different pantheon and explanation for the world. We explore the Maya calendar and the religion of human sacrifice, as well as similarities with the Inca mythology.

**Week 6:** We will cover many myths and sagas from Norse mythology. Be prepared to learn the gods of Asgard, especially Thor, Odin, and Loki, and what the Vikings contributed to our culture today.

**Week 7:** Finally, we will investigate the most plentiful pantheon of the Eastern world, in India.

**Week 8-9:** A study of modern mythology! If possible, we will include myths from Shinto Japan and rural China. Our final project will be due these weeks toward the end of the quarter.

**Here are some mind-blowing truths about Mythology and this class:**

* This is NOT a course about only Greek and Roman gods. Every culture has had its own gods, heroes, monsters, and creation stories.
* It is NOT a class in which you will learn every myth and legend that’s ever existed. We could cover 5 a day every day for a hundred years, and we wouldn’t come close to learning all of them.
* This IS a course in which you will move past your comfort zone and teach others about aspects of mythology about which you have just learned.

How much do you know about Mythology already? Take the quick test on the back to find out!

QUICK MYTHOLOGY TEST:

How much do you know about **Classical Mythology**? Write the correct name in each blank, if you can:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the hero of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ War who could not be killed except by an arrow through his heel.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ killed the monster Chimera while riding the winged horse \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the Greek god of speed, travelers, and money. In Rome, he was called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What about **other** **Mythologies**?

The Aztecs believed that the world had been made by the gods \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ times, and that the last world would come to an end when the gods were no longer offered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to consume.

Vikings worshipped \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the all-father, who had two \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that sat on his throne. He had given up one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in order to see into the future.

In Egypt, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s death would cause the owner to shave their eyebrows. (acc. to Herodotus).

Please acknowledge the expectations and schedule set for the Magnet Mythology course over these next nine weeks. If you have any questions or comments, please write them at the bottom. Also, if there is any assistance you’d like to offer as a guest speaker, volunteer for our any event throughout this quarter, or by bringing in an artifact related to mythology to assist the curriculum, please let me know.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Student Name Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature Date Best Number to reach you Email address

Comments/Questions:

This is a very fun course, but much is expected of you. Be prepared to work hard and learn!

*Ad bonum anno,*

Mr. Anderson