

Mid-Unit 2 Assessment: Compare and Contrast Themes in Literature

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part I

Directions: Read the text, and answer the questions that follow.

Prometheus

Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus were Titans trusted by Eros, God of Love, to give special gifts and abilities to the beasts, birds, and fishes of the world. They were also given the task of making a creature less great than the gods and the Titans, but higher in knowledge and understanding than the beasts, birds and fishes. Prometheus and Epimetheus were so generous with their gifts for the beasts, birds, and fishes that nothing was left for the creature that was to be called Man.

Prometheus took some clay from the ground at his feet, moistened it with water, and formed it to look like the gods. Into its nostrils was breathed the spirit of life, and it was given a soul. And so the first Man looked wonderingly round on the earth. He was naked, unprotected, and more helpless than any of the beasts. Prometheus pitied him more than the animals, since Man had a soul to suffer. He looked to Zeus, ruler of Olympus, to have compassion for Man and to help him, but Zeus refused.

Prometheus thought of a power belonging only to the gods. He said to Epimetheus, "We shall give fire to the Man we have made." He waited patiently and, unseen by the gods, made his way into Olympus, lighted a torch with a spark from the chariot of the Sun, and brought this royal gift to Man. With fire, Man no longer trembled in the darkness of caves when Zeus hurled his lightning across the sky. He was no longer scared of the animals that hunted him. With fire, Man made weapons, defied the frost and cold, made tools and money, introduced the arts, and was able to destroy as well as to create.

From his throne on Olympus, Zeus looked down on the earth and saw blue-gray smoke that curled upward to the sky. He watched more closely and realized with terrible wrath that what he saw came from fire. Fire had been the gods' own sacred power. He was apathetic to Man and gathered a council of the gods to decide how to punish Prometheus for deceiving him. Zeus chained Prometheus to the top of a mountain, and every day an eagle came and ate Prometheus' liver. Every night, his liver grew back.

This council also decided to punish Man. They decided to create something that should forever charm the souls and hearts of men and forever be Man's downfall. They created Pandora, the first woman. She carried with her a jar filled with sickness, death, and evil.

Adapted from: Lang, Jean. "Prometheus and Pandora." *A Book of Myths*. Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1914. 1–4. Project Gutenberg. Web. Public domain.

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1. Reread this sentence from the story: "He watched more closely and realized with terrible wrath that what he saw came from fire."

Using the context, what is the meaning of the word **wrath** as it is used in the text?

- a. extreme excitement
- b. extreme happiness
- c. extreme sorrow
- d. extreme anger

2. **Part A**

Reread this sentence from the story: "He was apathetic to Man and gathered a council of the gods to decide how to punish Prometheus for deceiving him."

Using your affix list, what is the root of the word **apathetic**?

Part B

What does the root mean?

Part C

Knowing the root and the context, what does the word **apathetic** mean as it is used in the text?

Part D

Check the meaning of **apathetic** in a dictionary. Revise your answer to Part C.

Part II

Directions: Reread from page 142 (“Well?’ Chiron asked me”) to the middle of page 145 (“My dad needs me”) in *The Lightning Thief*, then answer the following questions.

6. Which best describes a theme conveyed by the details in these pages?
 - a. Only Greek gods can challenge Greek gods.
 - b. Bold and strong humans can challenge the Greek gods.
 - c. All humans can be heroes if they are bold and strong.
 - d. Humans and Greek gods are equal beings.

7. What is Percy told by Chiron that emphasizes the theme?
 - a. Heroes have certain privileges.
 - b. Hades hates all heroes.
 - c. Greek gods operate through humans.
 - d. Greek gods can defeat all humans.

8. Read the theme below. Then answer the questions.

Theme: The Greek gods were very powerful and used their power to control their human subjects.

Part A

Evidence from “Prometheus” (myth): How does this evidence convey the theme?

Part B

Evidence from pages 142–145 of *The Lightning Thief*: How does this evidence convey the theme?

Part C

What is similar about how the theme is conveyed in the two stories? What is different? Provide one similarity and one difference.
