

YEAR 9

Independent learning to be completed during school closure

[English]

During a two week period you would ordinarily have:

6 English lessons

Lesson 1 – Research

- Spend some time researching the Pygmalion myth.
- Create a storyboard of the key moments from the story, as you understand them from your research.

This is a story with many different versions. Write a summary of 3 different versions of the Pygmalion story that you come across.

Lesson 2 – Reading and boxing up.

- Read over the attached version of the Pygmalion story, and box it up.
- Look up any words you don't understand.
- (A suggestion: Why don't you consider putting together a list of all the new vocabulary words you've discovered through this home learning. Perhaps someone at home can quiz you on the definitions!)

Lesson 3 – Literary Analysis

- Answer the following questions in thoughtful, developed paragraphs:
 1. Some critics have argued that this is a misogynistic story. Do you notice anything about this story that might support that interpretation?
 2. Who or what has the most power in this story? Art, Pygmalion, Galatea or Aphrodite? Why?
 3. Myths and parables often have a moral (a lesson you are meant to take from the story). How many different morals can you think of that might apply to this story?

Lesson 4 – Making Connections

The Pygmalion myth has been adapted for many different purposes and cultural contexts.

- Mindmap original and exciting ideas for a modern retelling of the Pygmalion story. What would change, and why? You may draw on your research from lesson 1.

Choose one of your ideas and write a page reflection, explaining why you think it's a relevant retelling for the modern day.

Lesson 5 – Research

- As you did in lesson one, research other Greek Myths.
- Identify the big idea in at least 3 different myths.

Choose one myth you particularly like and plan a modern retelling of it.

Lesson 6 – Creative Writing

- Write your modern retelling of the myth of your choice.
- Remember to use well-chosen methods to make your story interesting to your reader, and to ensure you are conveying your big idea.

Myth of Pygmalion And Galatea



The myth of Pygmalion and Galatea is probably one of the most known stories in Greek Mythology. Here is a short prose version of that myth:

Pygmalion was a talented Greek sculptor from Cyprus. After becoming disgusted by some local prostitutes, he lost all interest in women and avoided their company completely.

Pygmalion saw women as flawed creatures and vowed never to waste any moment of his life with them. He dedicated himself to his work and soon created Galatea, a beautiful stature of a woman out of ivory.

Ironically, the masterpiece of his life was this statue of a woman. Perhaps he sought to correct in marble the flaws he saw in women of flesh and blood.

Whatever the case, Pygmalion worked so long and with such inspiration on the statue of Galatea, that it became more beautiful than any woman that had ever lived or been carved in stone.

As he finished the statue's features, they became exquisitely lovely, and he found himself applying the strokes of hammer and chisel with increasing affection. When his chisel finally stopped ringing, there stood before him a woman of such perfection that Pygmalion, who had professed his disdain of all females, fell deeply in love.

He would bring it gifts, caress it, kiss it and talk to it every day. He brought it gifts he thought women would enjoy, such as pretty seashells, beads, songbirds, baubles and flowers.

He would dress the statue in fine clothing, and put rings on her fingers, necklaces around her neck and even earrings. However, what irony that he who had scorned women should fall in love with a woman who could never love him in return!

Such a passion could not go unnoticed by the goddess of love, Aphrodite. She took pity on the young man and, when Pygmalion went to her temple to sacrifice a bull, Aphrodite gave him a sign. As the offering burned on the temple, the flames shot up one, two, three times.

Pygmalion went home, wondering what to make of the manifestation he had seen. When he entered his studio, however, and saw the statue, all other thoughts were banished from his mind. He ran to his statue and embraced it.

the Myth of Pygmalion Galatea and Aphrodite Did she seem warm to his touch, or was it just residual heat from the sunset that had warmed the stone? He kissed her.

Did the statue's lips seem soft? He stood back and regarded her.

Did there appear the glow of life from within the marble form? Was he imagining it?

No. Aphrodite had given life to the statue, whose name was Galatea.

Pygmalion's mind oscillated between doubt and joy. Fearing he may be mistaken, again and again with a lover's ardor he touches the object of his hopes.

It was indeed alive! The veins when pressed yielded to the finger and again resumed their roundness.

Slowly it dawned on Pygmalion that the animation of his sculpture was the result of his prayer to Goddess Aphrodite who knew his desire. At last, the votary of Aphrodite found words to thank the goddess. Pygmalion humbled himself at the Goddess' feet.

Soon Pygmalion and Galatea were wed, and Pygmalion never forgot to thank Aphrodite for the gift she had given him.

Aphrodite blessed the nuptials she had formed, and this union between Pygmalion and Galatea produced a son named Paphos, from whom the city of Paphos in Cyprus (this city was sacred to Aphrodite), received its name.

If you require further information please email:

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