

TEACHER'S MATERIALS

MYTHOLOGIES: THE ART OF ANDREA ARROYO

THE STORIES IN THE PAINTINGS

ARIADNE was the daughter of King Minos of Crete. Her mother was Pasiphae. Ariadne fell in love with the Greek hero Theseus who was about to be sent into the Labyrinth. A labyrinth is a maze of roads that are very confusing, making it hard to find your way out. Ariadne gave Theseus a sword to kill the minotaur, a monster who lived in the Labyrinth, and a spool of thread to unwind behind him so he could find his way out. After getting out of the labyrinth, Theseus and Ariadne fled to the island of Naxos. Theseus left Ariadne there while she was sleeping because the goddess of wisdom, Minerva, told him to do so in a dream. When Ariadne discovered that Theseus had left her she began to weep. Bacchus, the Greek god of wine, heard Ariadne's cry's and felt sorry for her. Bacchus married Ariadne and gave her a crown which was changed after her death into a heavenly star formation called "The Crown of Ariadne."

EVE, according to the Bible, was the first woman created by God. Eve was fashioned from Adam's right rib and was created to be a wife and a companion for Adam, the first man. Within the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were innocent of all evil. One day in the garden a serpent, who was Satan in disguise, tricked Eve into eating the fruit which was forbidden by God to eat. Eve ate the apple of the tree of knowledge and then took it to Adam so that he would also eat the apple. They were both sent away from the Garden of Eden for disobeying God's only rule. By eating the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve became aware of evil.

PENELOPE is most well known for her devotion to her husband, Odysseus. Odysseus was forced to leave for the Trojan War, and Penelope faithfully awaited his return for 20 years. To avoid marrying any of her admirers who had considered her a widow by this time, Penelope made them promise to wait until she had finished a shroud (or blanket) she was weaving. Every day she would weave, but at night she would sneak back and unravel her day's work. The shroud was never completed and Odysseus came back from the war to continue his life with Penelope.

The story of the QUEEN OF SHEBA'S encounter with the great King Solomon of Jerusalem was recorded in many different cultures. The Queen of Sheba visited Solomon in a quest to test his wisdom. Upon finding that Solomon was the wisest man she had ever known, Sheba accepted his religion. They had a son named Menelik ibn Hakim who later visited his father and stole the ark of the covenant which was a very special treasure.

FRIDA KAHLO was an important Mexican artist who lived from 1907 to 1954. Most of her paintings were memories of her own life. "I never painted dreams" she said, "I painted my own reality ." Diego Rivera, her husband, was also an important mural artist. A mural is a large wall painting. Frida and Diego lived in Casa Azul in Coyocan, Mexico which is now a public museum. Frida liked painting portraits of herself to give to her friends and family and to other important people in her life. Frida's full name was Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo Caldron. She shortened her name early in her life.

DAPHNE was a Greek forest fairy which is also called a nymph. She was a daughter of a river god. Apollo fell in love with Daphne the first time he saw her, but she did not love him. Apollo kept chasing after Daphne, but she escaped from him. One day Apollo almost caught Daphne and in fear that Apollo would catch her she prayed to the Gods for help. She was tired of running away from Apollo and she didn't want to be his wife. The Gods heard her prayers and saved Daphne from Apollo by changing her into a laurel tree. Apollo could not harm her or chase after her anymore now that she was a tree. But Apollo still loved her. From then on the laurel tree became the favorite tree of the sun god.

THE FLOOD According to the Bible, God chose Noah to build a boat which was called an ark. The ark had to be big enough to fit two of each animal in it, one female and one male. God told Noah that too many people on earth had become evil and that they worshipped false gods. God also told Noah that he was sending a huge flood to wash away the evils of the earth, and Noah must save the animals and the only good people left on the earth-- his family. His family were the only people who followed God's law. While Noah and his son Japhet were building the ark, the townspeople would make fun and laugh at them. When the floods came, nothing could be seen except for water. For 40 days and 40 nights they sailed looking for any sight of land. Finally, after a long time, the ark landed on a high mountain named Ararat. Noah led all the animals and his family out of the ark, and down the mountain to start a new life. (All the evil was washed off the earth now.) Arroyo's painting represents those who were left behind.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND is a fictional character created by Lewis Carroll in 1865. Carroll based the character on a friend's daughter, Alice Liddell. In the story, Alice is a seven year old girl who follows a white rabbit down a hole into a dream world filled with such characters as the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, and the Cheshire Cat.

MADONNA MORENA (THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE) is the most popular saint of Mexico. Shortly after the Conquest of Mexico the first archbishop ordered the destruction of all the native deities and their shrines and introduced Christianity. The

Aztec goddess, Tonantzin, goddess of corn and earth was most deeply missed. Madonna Morena (the dark skinned Madonna), sent to take her place, appeared to a poor villager. She asked him to tell the Bishop to build a church on that spot.

THE THREE ANGELS — Sarah was the wife of Abraham. One hot day, Sarah and Abraham saw three men coming towards their home in the desert. As soon as the men reached the door, Sarah and Abraham offered them water to drink and washed their feet off. They looked like they had been walking many days in the desert. While Abraham picked out a calf from his herd for dinner, Sarah made the bread for the meal. She took three measures of fine meal and kneaded it and made cakes upon the hearth. A hearth is an open flame or fireplace that was used for cooking. After being served dinner the three men were thankful to Sarah and Abraham for serving them so well. They then told Sarah and Abraham that they were really angels in disguise sent by God. Because of their generosity, Sarah would be able to have a son. At first, Sarah was in disbelief and she laughed. She was 90 years old and far too old to have a baby.

LILITH is said to have been the first wife of Adam. God Created her from the dust of the earth the same way he created Adam, so she believed that she was Adams equal. Lilith didn't really like Adam very much so she left one day to be on her own. Adam spoke to God about her behavior and asked him to bring her back. When she refused to come back, God created Eve to be Adam's new wife. Some people believe that Lilith became jealous of Eve and later appears as a serpent and convinces her to eat the forbidden fruit.

Myths were researched and prepared by interns Christina Brand and Zoe Hoeltzel.