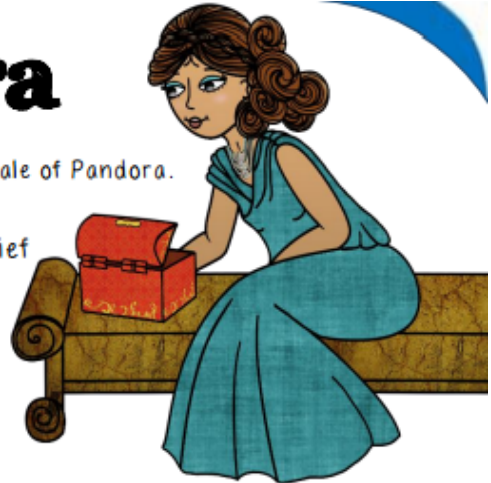


Pandora

The ancient Greeks were wonderful storytellers. This is the tale of Pandora.

Pandora's life began in a very unique way. Zeus, the chief god living on Mount Olympus, noticed that the mortals living on Earth were not treating him with respect. He became angry and decided it was time to punish them for their wrongdoing. Zeus ordered Pandora to be created to help carry out his master plan.



Pandora's life began as a statue. The gods carved her from a block of white, glossy marble. She was modeled after Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty. She was given red rubies for lips and bright, blue sapphires for eyes. After Pandora's marble statue was complete, she was turned into a beautiful mortal woman. Zeus blessed Pandora with an intelligent mind, a stunning smile, and a strong sense of curiosity. Zeus also gave Pandora a small, wooden box. "Accept this gift," he told Pandora. "But it is very important that it never be opened." With this, Pandora was sent down from the heavens to live on Earth as a mortal.

All the men in Greece were overcome with Pandora's exceptional beauty, but Zeus had a special plan for her. Zeus offered Pandora as a wife to a man named Epimetheus. Epimetheus was charmed by Pandora's beauty and quickly agreed to marry her. The pair lived in an extraordinary home and led an enchanted life together.

Pandora seemed to have everything, but her curiosity about the small, wooden box troubled her. "What could it be?" Pandora said to herself. "Perhaps gold coins, silk gowns, or even precious jewels are waiting inside."

One sunny afternoon, Pandora snuck away from her husband for a few moments. She crept into her bedroom, gathered the wooden box from a high shelf, and sat on the edge of her bed. Her delicate fingers danced on the edges of the box. Pandora desperately wanted to peek inside, but stopped as she remembered Zeus's words. She stood up to return the box to its resting place. It was then that Pandora lost herself. She slowly and carefully lifted the corners of the box. In that moment, all of the evils of the world burst out of the box. Greed, Hate, Sickness, Vanity, Dishonesty, and Jealousy all crashed around Pandora's room in a tornado. They stung her like angry bees before escaping out of her window and into the world. Shocked at what she had done, Pandora slammed the lid shut, but it was too late. Only the spirit of Hope was left hidden inside the dark, wooden box.

After the evil spirits left Pandora, they overpowered the mortals living on Earth. From that day on, all of mankind began acting wicked. The Earth, that was once kind and gentle, was instantly transformed into a place filled with pain, suffering, and sorrow – just as Zeus had planned.

1. Which words can be used to describe Zeus? Choose the best two answers.

- A) Vengeful
- B) Cooperative
- C) Gentle
- D) Ruthless

2. Who is the speaker in this story?

- A) first person, Zeus
- B) third person, narrator
- C) first person, Pandora
- D) third person, Pandora

3. Where does most of this story take place?

- A) on Earth
- B) in the heavens
- C) on Mount Olympus
- D) in Pandora's bedroom

4. Which word best describes Pandora in this story?

- A) curious
- B) powerful
- C) plain
- D) mean-spirited

5. What can the reader learn from this sentence?

In that moment, all the evils of the world burst out of the box. Greed, Hate, Sickness, Vanity, Dishonesty, and Jealousy all crashed around Pandora's room in a tornado.

- A) The moment was powerful and chaotic.
- B) The moment was peaceful and comfortable.
- C) The moment was formal and strict.
- D) The moment was cheerful and upbeat.

6. What is the genre of this story?

- A) Historical fiction because it takes place in the past
- B) Tall tale because many details are exaggerated
- C) Nonfiction because the information is true
- D) Myth because it has gods and goddesses

7. Which passage best summarizes this story?

- A) Pandora was made from a slab of white marble. She had precious jewels for eyes. She was the most beautiful woman in the entire world.
- B) Pandora used to be a god because she lived on Mount Olympus. Zeus sent her to Earth to get married. He wanted her to open the small box and unleash the evil on Earth.
- C) Pandora had a small, wooden box. When she opened it, she accidentally unleashed all of the evils on Earth.
- D) Pandora was sent to Earth by Zeus. Zeus was very angry with all of the people living on Earth. He sent Pandora there to get revenge on the mortals.

8. Pandora's Box

Pandora was told she must not open a box. But, because she was curious, she couldn't resist. When she opened it, to her horror, many evils escaped.

What does it mean to, "Open Pandora's box?"

- a. To grant wishes
- b. To help others
- c. To start unexpected trouble.
- d. To transform yourself

9. Midas touch

Greedy King Midas wanted everything he touched to turn to gold. His wish came true, and soon all he put his hands on including his daughter, turned to gold.

What does it mean to, "Have the Midas touch?"

- a. To be successful at making money
- b. To be gentle
- c. To have strength and power
- d. To be playful

10. Herculean Effort

To become a god, Hercules had to complete 12 nearly impossible tasks-like fighting multithreaded beasts. It took enormous strength to face these challenges.

What does it mean to, “Make a Herculean effort?”

- a. To be the strongest person.
- b. To give your best effort.
- c. To be the winner.
- d. To be the leader.

11. Achilles’ Heel

Achilles’ mom dipped him into the river Styx to protect him. His heel, untouched by the river, was his only weak spot. Years later, an arrow pierced his heel, killing him.

What does an Achilles’ Heel” mean?

- a. Your strongest quality
- b. A trait you want to change
- c. Your fun personality
- d. An area of weakness or vulnerability

12.

Part A

Myths are stories that offer answers to questions about the world. What questions does this one answer?

- a. Why do evil things happen in our world?
- b. Why is fire so important to humans?
- c. Why do alligators have such big teeth?
- d. How did the tradition of giving wedding gifts begin?

Part B

Which line from the myth supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “Epimetheus was charmed by Pandora’s beauty.”
- b. “Pandora was sent down from the heavens to live on Earth as a mortal.”
- c. “Zeus ordered Pandora to be created to carry out his master plan.”
- d. “In that moment, all the evils of the world burst out of box.”