

APOLLO AND DAPHNE RIDDLE

Write the correct letter in the numbered blank.

QUESTION: If Apollo's uncle's sister was not his aunt, then what relation was she to him?

ANSWER: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

1. If Apollo was a twin of Athena, write T. If not, write S.
2. If Daphne wanted to get married, write O. If not, write H.
3. If Apollo played his lyre for Daphne, write E. If not, write P.
4. If the laurel was sacred to Poseidon, write H. If not, write W.
5. If Ladon was a satyr, write E. If not, write A.
6. If Daphne grew roots and branches, write S. If not, write R.
7. If the other nymphs thought Daphne was crazy for fleeing from Apollo, write H. If not, write N.
8. If Daphne ran to her mother for help, write O. If not, write I.
9. If artists and heroes were crowned with olive wreaths, write T. If not, write S.
10. If Daphne's father was a river god, write M. If not, write F.
11. If Daphne chased Apollo, write A. If not, write O.
12. If Daphne would rather have been a tree than a bride, write T. If not, write R.
13. If Ladon and Inachos are the same type of gods, write H. If not, write M.
14. If Pan and Apollo were always lucky in love, write I. If not, write E.
15. If Apollo started to hate Daphne after she became a tree, write N. If not, write R.

Teacher's Key APOLLO AND DAPHNE RIDDLE

ANSWER: She was his mother.

THE MYRMIDONS

This strange tale of transformation began when Zeus, the ruler of heavens and earth, was looking down one day from Mt. Olympus and spied the lovely young woman Aegina. And, as was his nature, he decided that he wanted her as one of his wives. Therefore, he disguised himself as an eagle, swooped down to earth, and carried Aegina off to the island Oenopia. There they lived, and she bore him a son, Aeacus. In her honor, Zeus decreed the island be renamed "Aegina" after his wife and that their son should be the king there when he reached an appropriate age.

And so it was that Aeacus became the leader of the small but prosperous island. All was well in Aeacus' land for many years: the crops grew full with grain, the cattle and sheep grew strong and multiplied, and the people lived in contentment. Unfortunately, however, this pleasant state of affairs came to the notice of Hera, the jealous queen of Zeus.

To Hera it was an outrage that Aegina should have an island bearing her name. "This cannot be!" she exclaimed in divine fury. "Aegina's son, Aeacus, may think he rules a wonderful place now, but let's see what he thinks in the days to come. Aegina's namesake might not be so wonderful then!"

This said, Hera sent a horrible plague to the island. Harsh blasts of hot air blew in from the south, causing the crops to wither upon the ground and die. Serpents suddenly swarmed over the land, poisoning streams and wells with their venom. Birds, livestock, and wild beasts all took ill and dropped wretchedly to their deaths. The air itself become poisonous. Nor were the inhabitants of the island spared. Their bodies blistered with heat and fever, and their minds fell in despair. All around were signs of disease and death and sorrow. Only Aeacus and his own son were spared.

"What have I done to merit such ruin?" Aeacus cried in the temple of his father Zeus. "Please, oh mighty father, help me in this crisis. Either provide me with a way to regain my people, or send me to a merciful death also."

Zeus, hearing his son's plea, responded with a single thunderbolt. Aeacus, knowing he had been heard, felt hope. Leaving the temple, he spotted an ancient oak, the tree sacred to Zeus. As he approached this tree, he spotted an army of ants engaged in work. Each of the creatures was foraging crumbs and storing them in his arboreal nest. Aeacus was touched by the sight of their industry, and that night he dreamed of them in the strangest manner. He saw the ants fall from the boughs of the tree to the earth, and he saw these fallen workers suddenly grow large and into human form. "It was only a dream," he sighed sadly in the morning.

But then, into his room came running his son, full of excitement and wonder. "Father, come now! Come quickly! A miracle has occurred!"

Aeacus followed his son into the morning light to behold a miracle indeed! There before him stood a new army of young men, just as in his dream. These youths he named the Myrmidons* after their former state, and in time these new soldiers restored his island home to prosperity once again.

* *myrmex* is Greek for ant



Songs of Transformation

ARCAS AND CALLISTO

(The Bear Went Over the Mountain)

Callisto was a great huntress.
Callisto was a great huntress.
Callisto was a great huntress.
She hunted every day.

Arcas hunted beside her.
Arcas hunted beside her
Arcas hunted beside her.
He'd rather hunt than play.

Zeus admired Callisto,
Zeus admired Callisto,
Zeus admired Callisto,
And Hera cast a spell.

Callisto now was a black bear,
Callisto now was a black bear,
Callisto now was a black bear,
But no one could she tell.

Arcas spotted Callisto.
Arcas spotted Callisto.
Arcas spotted Callisto.
He raised his spear up high.

Zeus made Arcas a black bear,
Zeus made Arcas a black bear,
Zeus made Arcas a black bear,
And put them both up in the sky.

