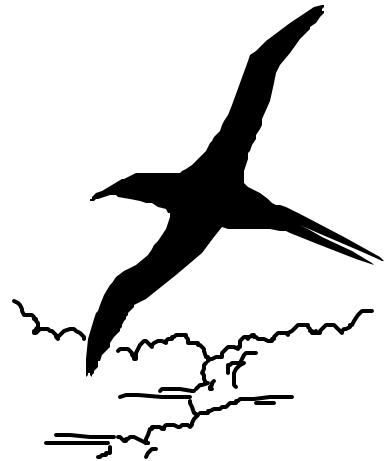


CEYX AND HALCYON

When the winds are calm in winter and the skies are clear and blue, when the sun is sweet and golden, we call these times “Halcyon days.” There is a reason for this term, you may be sure!

Ceyx was a king who loved his wife, Halcyon, above all else, save honor. Although he loved Halcyon and listened to her advice, he was a man of his word, and he had promised to visit the Oracle at Delphi to ask forgiveness for his brother’s mistakes. Halcyon begged him not to go. She had a deep feeling that it would be treacherous to sail at this time. She wept and clung to him, pleading with him over and over to wait. Gently he loosened his arms and held her by her shoulders as he gazed into her face. “I must go for I have promised. I have given my word. But, I will come back to you in two months’ time. I will come back because you mean more to me than anything in all the world. Trust me. I will come back.”

Halcyon stood on the shore and watched him sail away, waving her white kerchief until the ship was out of sight over the horizon. Unfortunately, her foreboding was right. Soon storms arose and tossed the ship on crashing waves until it broke apart. Ceyx was thrown into the heaving sea. As long as he could struggle to stay afloat, he called out Halcyon’s name. At last he sank below the surface.



Halcyon waited at home. She burnt incense at Juno’s altar and begged her daily to bring Ceyx safely home. Juno was aware that Ceyx had drowned, and Halcyon’s pleas moved her with pity. To stop the frantic prayers, Juno sent a dream to her so she would know that her husband had died. When Halcyon awoke from the dream of her dead husband, she rushed, screaming, to the place where she had bade him goodbye. She stood looking out to the sea, and as she watched she spied, floating in the calm tide, the white body of the drowned man. It was Ceyx! She recognized him instantly. He had come home as he had promised.

Torn with grief, she leapt from the cliff toward him. “Wait for me,” she called. “I will come to you.”

SOMETHING'S THE SAME

SOMETHING'S THE SAME

SOMETHING'S THE SAME

Look at each of the following sets of mythological characters. Each set contains members who have something relating to their transformations in common. Examine each set closely. Look for the transformation information below:

FROM

TO

BECAUSE

BY

After considering this information, describe what one common aspect the members of each set share.

ex. Picus / Halcyon / Perdix all were transformed into birds

Baucis / Myrmidons _____

Clytie / Hyacinth / Narcissus _____

Callisto / Echo _____

Halcyon / Thisbe _____

Galatea / Myrmidons _____

Arachne / Dryope / Clytie _____

Daphne / Dryope / Philemon _____

Orion / Callisto _____

Philemon / Perdix _____

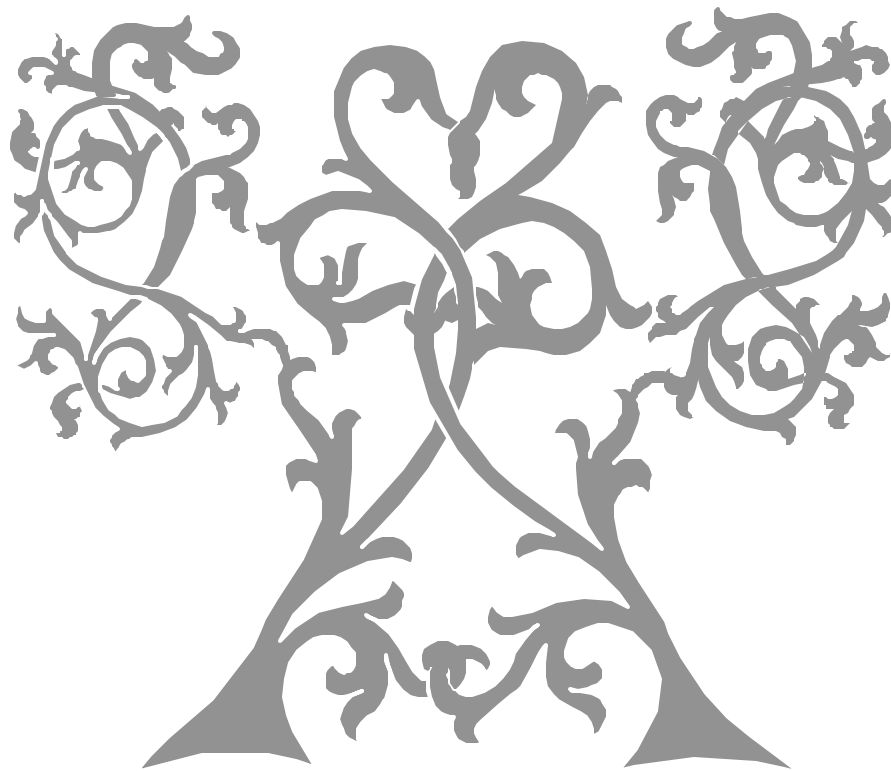
BONUS: Ask your science teacher about this if you need help. You may need to explain the myth to him/her.

Tithonus / Arachne / Myrmidons _____

BAUCIS AND PHILEMON

(Rig-a-Jig-Jig)

Jupiter and Mercury came down to earth to test a town.
To punish people for slamming doors, everybody drowned
Except Philemon and Baucis who prepared a feast, the best they had.
Philemon said he would kill the goose, though Baucis would be sad.
But the gods were happy with cabbage soup
And filled the wine bowl magically.
They turned the hut to a temple and the couple to beautiful trees.



Annotated Bibliography and more...

Carle, Eric. *Dragons, Dragons*. New York: Philomel Books, 1991.

In this illustrated book of poetry, there is a poem entitled "Minotaur." Other mythological creatures from classical mythology are also described poetically.

Connolly, Peter. *Greek Legends: The Stories, The Evidence*. New York: Barnes and Noble, 1994.

This book includes not only the story of Theseus but also a section entitled "Fact or Fiction?"

Evslin, Bernard. *Monsters of Mythology: The Minotaur*. New York: Chelsea House, 1987.

This book, illustrated in color, is dedicated to a description of the Minotaur, its history, and the myths associated with it.

Farrell, William. *Characters in Mythology*. Oxford, Ohio: American Classical League, 1991.

Each character is described in one page of text and shown in an illustration. The Minotaur is included.

Gibson, Michael. *Gods, Men and Monsters from the Greek Myths*. New York: Peter Bedrick Books, 1991.

This retelling of the myth includes Theseus' adventures before he arrives in Athens, information on Daedalus, and Theseus' life after becoming the king of Athens.

Johnson, Firdolf. *Mythical Beasts Coloring Book*. New York: Dover Publications, 1976.

This coloring book contains pictures of 30 mythical beasts including a drawing of Theseus doing battle with the Minotaur.