

## Unit 2 Assessment

The following is a student's rough draft of a myth. Read the draft then answer the following questions.

### ARACHNE

#### The First Spider

- 1 According to Greek mythology, Arachne was a young lady who lived in Lydia. She was very gifted in the art of weaving. Nymphs (nature spirits) would stop frolicking around to watch Arachne work, for her work was flawless.
- 2 People said that Athena (the goddess who invented weaving) herself must have taught Arachne. Arachne scoffed at this, for she did not like the idea of her weaving skills being below that of a goddesses.
- 3 When Athena heard about this attitude she disguised herself as an old lady and told Arachne to be careful not to offend the gods. Arachne replied that she would challenge Athena, then, and live the consequences if she lost. Athena then resumed her own form and took the challenge.
- 4 Athena wove a tapestry showing her struggles against the god Poseidon. Arachne wove a tapestry making fun of the gods. Even Athena had to admit that Arachne's tapestry was flawless, but, angered by the subject, ripped it apart, and touched her forefinger to Arachne's forehead to bring Arachne remorse.
- 5 Arachne was so depressed that she committed suicide. Athena, obviously not expecting this, felt a pang of pity for Arachne and brought her back to life as the first spider so she and her descendants to weave forevermore.

1. Which writing skill is effectively modeled in this draft?
  - (a) Punctuation
  - (b) Word Choice
  - (c) Logical Ending
  - (d) Character Development

2. What could the author do to improve this piece?
- (a) Include transition words to convey sequence.
  - (b) Provide a logical conclusion based on the events.
  - (c) Use dialogue to develop characters.
  - (d) Correct punctuation and capitalization errors.
3. Which word from paragraph 2 is an example of an intensive pronoun?
- (a) Athena
  - (b) tapestry
  - (c) Even
  - (d) herself
4. In the myth, Athena and Arachne are skilled at weaving.  
Which definition of weaving best matches the story?
- (a) To form with yarns, threads, or strips of some material.
  - (b) To move along a course in a winding fashion.
  - (c) To compose a story or tale by combining details.
  - (d) To combine various elements into a connected whole.

5. On a story map for this piece, where would the following ideas belong?

Athena -- very jealous

Arachne -- skilled weaver

- (a) Characters
- (b) Setting
- (c) Problem
- (d) Solution

6. How could the author best rewrite the last sentence?

*"Athena, obviously not expecting this, felt a pang of pity for Arachne and brought her back to life as the first spider so she and her descendants to weave forevermore."*

- (a) Athena, obviously not expecting this, felt a pang of pity for Arachne. She then brought her back to life as the first spider, so she and her descendants could weave forevermore.
- (b) Athena, obviously not expecting this, felt a pang of pity for Arachne, and brought her back to life as the first spider, so she and her descendants to weave forevermore.
- (c) Obviously not expecting this, Athena felt a pang of pity for Arachne and brought her back to life as the first spider so she and her descendants to weave forevermore.
- (d) Athena, obviously not expecting this, felt a pang of pity for Arachne and brought Arachne back to life as the first spider so she herself and her descendants could weave forevermore.

One of the greatest heroes of Greek mythology was Heracles. You probably know him by his Roman name, Hercules. Read the passage about this popular ancient hero and then answer the following questions.

### **Hercules: Epic Hero**

1 Hercules, the hero, was the son of the god Zeus and a beautiful Greek woman. When Zeus' wife, the goddess Hera, learned about the birth of Hercules, she was filled with anger. She tried to murder the child by placing two snakes in his crib, but the infant Hercules was so strong that he took the snakes in his tiny hands and strangled them.

2 Zeus made sure that Hercules was educated by great men. He was taught how to drive a chariot, how to be an excellent marksman with a bow and arrow, how to play music, and how to be a champion at fencing, wrestling, and boxing. By the time he was an adult it was clear that Hercules possessed superhuman strength.

3 Hercules married and had two children. But the goddess Hera never lost her hatred of Hercules. She was determined to ruin his life by making him as miserable as possible. When she saw how happy he was with his own family, she cast a spell on him that caused him to become mad. In his state of uncontrollable madness, Hercules murdered his wife and children. When the spell wore off and he was himself again, he was devastated to learn what he had done. He was so filled with sorrow that he could not rest.

4 Hercules decided to go to Delphi and speak with the oracle there. He was so filled with remorse that he asked what he could do to punish himself for his horrible crime. The oracle told him to go to his cousin Eurystheus, who would then give him twelve labors to complete as his punishment for murdering his family.

5 The first labor assigned to Hercules was to kill the Nemean lion. This was no ordinary lion. It was a supernatural monster that could not be slain with arrows or spears. One by one, Hercules blocked all of the exits to the lion's cave. He hid inside until he came face to face with the lion. They had a terrible fight, but Hercules was able to beat the lion with his own bare hands. The lion was defeated, and Hercules made a coat out of its skin and wore it proudly.

6 The second labor was far more difficult than the first one. This time Hercules was told to hunt and destroy the swamp-monster Hydra. Hydra was a serpent-like creature with nine heads. It was said that every time a head was removed, two more would grow in its place. In addition to the heads, Hydra's breath was poisonous and deadly. Just one whiff of Hydra could kill an ordinary man. But Hercules went after Hydra with flaming arrows. He was accompanied by his nephew Iolaus, who had driven him to the swamp in a chariot. Hydra wrapped its heads around Hercules and called for help in the form of a giant crab that also lived in the swamp. The crab bit Hercules' heel, causing him great pain. He yelled out to his nephew in the chariot. Iolaus grabbed the fiery arrows and ran to help Hercules. Every time Hercules chopped off one of Hydra's heads, the nephew held the fire on the wound so another head would not grow in its place. Hercules chopped away at each head until he came to the last head. It was immortal, so Hercules cut it off and buried it beneath a rock, defeating Hydra at last with his nephew's help.

7 Some of Hercules' other labors were to slay a golden deer, catch a murderous wild boar, drive away a flock of wild birds that attacked humans, and steal Hera's golden apples. But the twelfth and final labor was the most challenging of all. Hercules had to go to Hades, or the Underworld, and take the beast that guarded the entrance to the world of the dead. The creature had three dog heads, a dragon as a tail, and the heads of snakes up and down its back. No man had ever entered Hades and returned to the world of the living. The god Pluto confronted Hercules and told him that he could take the beast if he fought him with just his own hands and nothing else. Hercules searched the rivers of the Underworld for the beast, and when he found him he wrestled him to the ground. The dragon tail bit Hercules, but not even that could stop him. Finally, Hercules overpowered the beast and finished the task. With the completion of the last labor, Hercules was done at last.

8 But Hercules' bravery and adventures continued throughout his life. Perhaps his greatest feat of all was fighting the Giants. The Giants were monstrous gods whose parents were the Earth and the Sky. The Giants were as tall as the mountains and so strong that they were believed to be unbeatable. The Giants threw burning trees and rocks the size of houses at Mount Olympus. An oracle had been sent to the gods saying that they could only kill the Giants with the help of a mortal. The mortal was Hercules. He was carried by chariot to Mount Olympus where he could watch for the approaching Giants. When he spotted the first Giant, he shot him with an arrow

and the giant fell to the ground. Soon other giants arrived, and all of the gods joined in the fight. Finally, Zeus was able to hit the Giants with his thunderbolts, and Hercules finished them off.

9 Hercules was so courageous throughout his life, that when he was dying, the gods brought him to their home on Mount Olympus out of respect for all the hardships he had endured. Hercules became immortal; and instead of dying like mortal men, he became a god.

7. Which words from the text best demonstrates Hercules's motivation for performing the twelve tasks?

- (a) He wanted to demonstrate his courage.
- (b) He possessed superhuman strength.
- (c) He was filled with guilt.
- (d) He was the son of the god Zeus.

8. What organizational pattern did the author use in writing this myth?

- (a) Cause and Effect
- (b) Time Order
- (c) Problem and Solution
- (d) Order of Importance

9. What character trait for Hera is supported by her trying to murder Hercules?

- (a) Vengeful
- (b) Cruel
- (c) Deceptive
- (d) Savage

10. In the last paragraph, the author writes:

*"Hercules became immortal, and instead of dying like mortal men, he became a god."*

What type of context clue does the author use to help the reader define immortal?

- (a) Direct definition
- (b) Appositive phrase
- (c) Linked synonyms
- (d) Compare and contrast

11. According to the author, what was Hercules's greatest feat of strength?

- (a) Strangling two snakes as an infant.
- (b) Wrestling the three headed dog from Hades.
- (c) Hunting and destroying the swamp-monster Hydra.
- (d) Fighting the Giants who attacked Mount Olympus.

12. In the second paragraph, the author writes that Hercules was taught how to be a champion at fencing, wrestling, and boxing.

Which would be the best strategy for understanding that fencing is a sport?

- (a) Looking it up in a dictionary.
- (b) Analyzing the word's root and suffix.
- (c) Searching for the word online.
- (d) Using the context clues surrounding the word.

13. Hera casts a spell causing Hercules to become mad.  
Which definition of mad best matches its use in this story?
- (a) Angry
  - (b) Insane
  - (c) Foolish
  - (d) Infatuated

**Directions:** Based on the information below, answer the following questions.

*Paige's teacher assigned students to conduct research on different characters in Greek Mythology. She has been assigned Poseidon.*

14. Which organizational structure would best fit this assignment?
- (a) Cause and Effect
  - (b) Time Order
  - (c) Problem and Solution
  - (d) Classification
15. Which of the following resources would be helpful to Paige?
- (a) Atlas
  - (b) Biography
  - (c) Encyclopedia
  - (d) Thesaurus



16. For her project, Paige uses a website to gather information. Which of the following information should never be included when citing an electronic resource?

- (a) Date she accessed the website.
- (b) The author of the website.
- (c) The title of the website.
- (d) The browser used to access the website.

17. Which statement would be least important for a historical report about Poseidon?

- (a) Poseidon is the greek god of seas and earthquakes.
- (b) Poseidon is the brother of greek gods Zeus and Hades.
- (c) Poseidon is often portrayed holding a trident.
- (d) Poseidon is featured in the novel, The Lightning Thief.

18. Which word is an example of the prefix "im-" meaning "not".

- (a) important
- (b) immigrant
- (c) immense
- (d) improbable

19. Based on affix and root meanings, which word would most likely mean "across water"?

- (a) transmarine
- (b) riverology
- (c) subcontinent
- (d) superaqua

20. Which transition words would an author use to signal a Time Order pattern?

- (a) in addition, as well as
- (b) eventually, following
- (c) similarly, however
- (d) because, as a result

21. Based on the meaning of the prefix "un-", what does unyielding mean in the following sentence?

The coach was unyielding in his decision.

- (a) firm
- (b) fair
- (c) wavering
- (d) wise

22. In which of the following words does the prefix "im-" mean "into"?

- (a) important
- (b) immature
- (c) immaculate
- (d) immigrant

23. Which of the following is true when changing the root word "music" by adding "ian"?

- (a) The word remains a noun.
- (b) The word changes from an adjective to a noun.
- (c) The word changes from a pronoun to an adverb.
- (d) The word changes from a noun to an adjective.

24. Which suffix normally changes a verb into a noun?

- (a) -ness
- (b) -ly
- (c) -ous
- (d) -ment

25. In which of the following words does the prefix "dis-" give you a clue to the words meaning?

- (a) dismay
- (b) dismal
- (c) disaster
- (d) distrust

26. Which is **not** a kind of introduction?

- (a) Ask a question
- (b) Make a surprising statement
- (c) Describe the setting
- (d) Provide details for the argument

27. Which is **not** a transitional phrase?

- (a) Struggles to survive
- (b) Furthermore
- (c) After the concert
- (d) For example

28. Which of the passages show the most effective use of varied sentence patterns?

- (a) Harriet Tubman was a former slave. Harriet was famous for being the courageous leader of the Underground Railroad. Harriet helped hundreds of slaves escape to freedom. Harriet led them north in the 1800s.
- (b) Harriet Tubman was a former slave. She become famous. She was the courageous leader of the Underground Railroad. Harriet helped hundreds of slaves. She helped them to escape to freedom in the north. this happened in the 1800s.
- (c) Harriet Tubman was a former slave, became famous, was the courageous leader of the Underground Railroad, and helped hundreds of slaves to escape to freedom in the north, during the 1800s.
- (d) Harriet Tubman was a former slave who became famous as the courageous leader of the Underground Railroad. She helped hundreds of slaves escape to freedom in the north during the 1800s.

## Assessment Breakdown

	<b>Answer</b>	<b>CCSS</b>	<b>DOK Level</b>	<b>Skill</b>
<b>1</b>	B	W.6.3, W.6.3d	3	Assess
<b>2</b>	C	W.6.3b	4	Analyze
<b>3</b>	D	L.6.1b	1	Identify
<b>4</b>	A	RL.6.4, L.6.4a	2	Use Context Clues
<b>5</b>	A	RL.6.5, W.6.4	2	Categorize
<b>6</b>	A	W.6.5	4	Critique
<b>7</b>	C	RL.6.1	1	Retell
<b>8</b>	B	RL.6.5	2	Classify
<b>9</b>	A	RL.6.1	1	Identify
<b>10</b>	D	L.6.4a, L.6.5b	2	Use Context Clues
<b>11</b>	D	RL.6.1	1	Retell
<b>12</b>	D	RL.6.4	2	Use Context Clues
<b>13</b>	B	RL.6.4, L.6.4a	2	Infer, Use Context Clues
<b>14</b>	B	W.6.2a	2	Organize, Plan
<b>15</b>	C	W.6.7	1	Identify
<b>16</b>	A	W.6.8	1	Identify
<b>17</b>	D	W.6.7	2	Compare
<b>18</b>	D	L.6.4b	1	Identify
<b>19</b>	A	L.6.4b	1	Use Prefix Knowledge
<b>20</b>	B	W.6.2c	2	Categorize
<b>21</b>	A	L.6.4a, L.6.4b	1	Use Prefix Knowledge
<b>22</b>	D	L.6.4b	1	Use Prefix Knowledge
<b>23</b>	A	L.6.4b	2	Distinguish
<b>24</b>	D	L.6.4b	1	Use Prefix Knowledge
<b>25</b>	D	L.6.4b	2	Compare
<b>26</b>	C	W.6.2a, W.6.4	1	Identify
<b>27</b>	A	W.6.2c	1	Identify
<b>28</b>	D	L.6.3a	4	Critique