

Myths, Dreams, Symbols: _____

Mythological Actions Essay: Death and the High-Cost of Living

PROCESS 20 pts

Commentary

Prewriting Efforts	2 points	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
Drafting, Conferencing	15 points	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
Evaluation	3 points	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.

(NMI= needs major improvement; CUI= could use improvement; AVG=average; GOOD=good; SUP=superb)

PRODUCT 80 pts

1. Assignment Fulfillment	10 pts.	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
2. THESIS	10 pts	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
3. SUMMARY	10 pts	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
4. ANALYTICAL	10 pts	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
5. ORGANIZE	10 pts	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
6. PERSONAL	10 pts	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
7. PHRASING	10 pts	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.
8. GRA./SPEL.	10 pts	N.M.I.	C.U.I.	AVG.	GOOD	SUP.

EXPLANATIONS

- 1. A catchy title has been created. A catchy intro has been provided. The paper is around 1000 words. General paper-formatting conventions have been adhered to.**
- 2. A well-crafted thesis is discernable; it is phrased well, and explained such that the core value or understanding of the myth or topic is presented.**
- 3. The summary of the topic at hand is clearly represented, flavorful, and streamlined.**
- 4. The analysis behind the myth or topic is expressive, flavorful, and reflects critical thinking.**
- 5. The essay flows well due to strong organizational structures such as P.I.E. structures and transitions. The essay’s concepts “gels” together coherently and perceptively.**
- 6. The personal appeal/understanding (AUTHORIAL STRENGTH) behind the myth or symbol is strong.**
- 7. Phrasing throughout the piece is original, inventive, playful, or risk-taking.**
- 8. The paper’s overall meaning is not impeded by grammar or spelling errors.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET AHEAD: / PENALTIES

Submission to Spectrum, other contests	Submit?		TENTATIVE GRADE
PERMANENT INFRACTION			LETTER GRADE CONVERSION

Will there be permanent infractions applied to the piece? Yes NO If yes, justification: _____ late poor process lack of conferencing other

MYTHICAL ACTIONS ESSAY WRAP-UP

Revisions: In my class, you will be accorded the chance to revise; in my class, revision is highly-recommended. **Why should you settle for anything LESS than your VERY-best?** You should ideally make some time to meet with me individually; these meetings are to discuss how to best go about revising your paper. You should consider revising even if you have received permanent grade infractions on your final draft. I am not a "hard-ass" teacher. I do, however, believe in this concept: "Great writing is rewriting."

THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS ESSAY

On My First Son
by Ben Jonson

Farewell, thou child of my right hand, and joy ;
My sin was too much hope of thee, lov'd boy.
Seven years thou wert lent to me, and I thee pay,
Exacted by thy fate, on the just day.
Oh, could I lose all father now ! For why
Will man lament the state he should envy?
To have so soon 'scaped world's and flesh's rage,
And if no other misery, yet age !
Rest in soft peace, and, asked, say, Here doth lie
Ben Jonson his best piece of poetry.
For whose sake henceforth all his vows be such
As what he loves may never like too much.

Even after my grandfather died, there was no consolation in it. I miss playing cards with him, hearing his stories about wrestling farmers (which he told 6 times again and again), watching him enjoy char sui and candies in the rare times Grandma let him eat those items (he was a diabetic).

There's no consolation in death. There's no going down into Hades and bringing back our loved ones from Proserpine's cold, steely embrace. There's not even a moment when we can have the luxury of even looking back behind our shoulder—no Orphic chance to confirm Eurydice's presence.

If, however, you imagine that your child, your parents, your lover is merely on loan to you, to use Jonson's verb, or to employ Jonson's metaphor about banking, then we really ought to cherish and pay off the mortgage, work on paying the interest on that loan. Questions arise. Did I treat my grandpa well? Did I say kind things to him? Did I tell my _____(sibling, parent, friend) that I really enjoyed their role and presence in my life?

But it was natural for Orpheus to look back, perfectly legitimate. We, as rational-empiricists and citizens of the 21st century, enjoy visual confirmation. We need Eurydice to be there.

All Orpheus needed to do, however, is to keep pushing forward, keeping Eurydice's blissful, diaphanous image in his mind—honoring her memory not by miring himself in the depths of his woe, but honoring her best by living as best he could, even after having lost her.

If I can keep my Grandpa's sense of humor and his silliness, then I move on.

If I learn from his stubbornness and be less stubborn, then I progress.

If I enjoy good food and learn to relax and enjoy myself with simple pleasures like he did, I become more able to live my life with less complications.

And in doing so, he does not die, but exists as a seed, as a kernel of more than just his DNA in structuring my face, body, and build.

He becomes the poem of which I am a word.

The people in your lives who are dead become your most cherished myths, but far more than just myths.

Because they were here. They were real. They are you.

They lived and they prevailed.