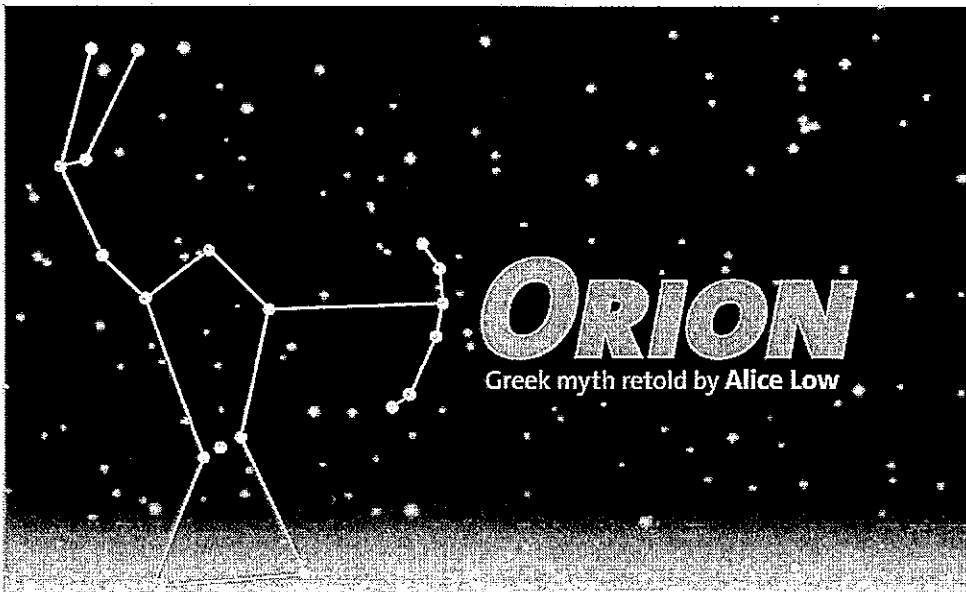


## Part 3: Analyze the Text

Classical Greek myths are more than 3,000 years old, so why are we still drawn to them? With their mighty heroes, flawed gods and goddesses, and supernatural events, ancient Greek myths still have the power to entertain. At the same time, they help us to understand the values and beliefs of the people who first told them. Use what you've learned in this workshop to analyze "Orion," one of several Greek myths that you will read in this unit.



Orion was a giant and a brave hunter. He could walk on water, a gift given him by his father, Poseidon, god of the sea.

One day Orion walked across the water to the island of Chios. There he fell in love with the king's daughter, Merope.

5 Orion said to the king, "I wish to marry your daughter, for I have fallen deeply in love with her. Tell me what I must do to gain her hand."

"Very well," said the king. "Since you are famous as a mighty hunter, you must rid my island of lions and bears and wolves. Only then will I give you my precious daughter's hand in marriage."

10 Orion strode through the hills and killed all the wild animals with his sword and his club. Then he brought their skins to the king and said, "Now I have finished my task. Let us set a day for the wedding."

But the king did not want to part with his daughter and kept putting off the wedding date. This angered Orion, and he tried to carry off

15 Merope.

### Close Read

1. Reread the boxed details. What qualities and powers make Orion special?
2. Here is a common stylistic element in the traditional tales of many cultures: A king or other powerful man sets difficult, even impossible, tasks for a young man who wants to marry his daughter. Why do you think the king in this myth gives Orion such a challenge?

Her father retaliated.<sup>1</sup> He called on the god of wine, Dionysus, to put Orion into a deep sleep. Then the king blinded Orion and flung him onto the sand by the sea.

When Orion awoke sightless, he cried out, "I am blind and helpless.  
20 How shall I ever hunt again or win Merope for my bride?"

In his despair, Orion consulted an oracle,<sup>2</sup> which answered him, "O Orion, you shall regain your sight if you travel east to the place where the sun rises. The warm rays of the sun shall heal your eyes and restore their power."

25 But how could a blind man find his way to that distant place? Orion followed the sound of the Cyclopes<sup>3</sup> hammers to the forge of the god Hephaestus.<sup>4</sup> When the god saw the blind hunter, he took pity on him and gave him a guide to lead him to the sun, just as it was rising.

Orion raised his eyes to the sun and, miraculously, he could see again.  
30 After thanking the sun, Orion set off for the island of Chios to take revenge on the king. But the king and his daughter had fled, possibly to Crete, and Orion went there to look for them. He never found them, but he met up with Artemis, goddess of the hunt, and spent days hunting with her. They were a happy pair, roving through the woods,  
35 until Artemis's brother, Apollo, became jealous.

Apollo sent a scorpion to attack Orion. Orion could not pierce the scorpion's tough body with his arrows, but he dodged the poisonous insect and strode far out to sea.

Apollo was bent on destroying Orion, and he called to Artemis,  
40 "See that rock way out there in the sea? I challenge you to hit it."

Artemis loved a challenge. She drew her bow and aimed carefully. Her first arrow hit the mark, and Apollo congratulated her on her skill.

But when the waves brought Orion's body to the shore, Artemis moaned with grief. "I have killed my beloved companion. I shall never  
45 forget him. And the world shall never forget him, either."

She lifted his body up into the sky, where he remains among the stars to this day—the mighty hunter, one of the most brilliant constellations,<sup>5</sup> with his sword and his club and three bright stars for his belt.

1. **retaliated:** got revenge.

2. **oracle:** in ancient Greece, a wise person who was said to be able to communicate with the gods and predict the future.

3. **Cyclopes:** one-eyed monsters.

4. **Hephaestus:** the god of fire, responsible for creating armor, sculptures, and other objects by shaping hot metal with a hammer.

5. **constellations:** groupings of stars in the sky.

### Close Read

- Whom does Orion turn to for help with his problem? Explain what his actions in lines 21–27 suggest about ancient Greek beliefs.
- Review lines 16–18 and 25–28. What role do the gods play in Orion's life?
- Reread lines 34–44. What human qualities or emotions do Apollo and Artemis display?
- How does Apollo trick Artemis into "destroying Orion"?
- What mystery of the universe does this myth explain?

# APOLLO'S TREE

## *The Story of Daphne and Apollo*

Retold by Mary Pope Osborne

One day when Apollo, the god of light and truth, was a young man, he came upon Cupid, the god of love, playing with one of his bows. “What are you doing with my bow?” Apollo asked angrily. “Don’t try to steal my glory, Cupid! I’ve slain a great serpent with that weapon. Play with your own little bow and arrows!”

“Your arrows may slay serpents, Apollo,” said the god of love, “but *my* arrows can do worse harm! Even you can be wounded by them!”

With that **ominous** threat, Cupid flew into the sky and landed on top of a high mountain. Then he pulled two arrows from his quiver!<sup>1</sup> One had  
10 a blunt tip filled with lead. Whomever was hit by this arrow would run from anyone professing love. The second arrow was sharp and made of gold. Whomever was hit with this arrow would instantly fall in love. **A**

Cupid aimed his first arrow at Daphne, a beautiful nymph<sup>2</sup> hunting deep in the woods. Daphne was a follower of Diana, Apollo’s twin sister and the goddess of wild things. Like Diana, Daphne loved her freedom, as she roamed the woods and fields with her hair in wild disarray and her limbs bare to the sun and rain.

Cupid pulled the bowstring back and shot the blunt-tipped arrow at Daphne. When the arrow flew through the air, it became invisible. And  
20 when it pierced Daphne’s heart, she felt a sharp pain, but knew not why.

Holding her hands over her wound, Daphne rushed to her father, the river god. “Father!” she shouted. “You must make me a promise!”

“What is it?” called the god who stood in the river, surrounded by water nymphs.

**ominous** (ŏm’ə-nəs) *adj.*  
threatening; frightening

### **A** PREDICT

Reread lines 1–12. What do you think Cupid is going to do? Add your prediction to your chart.

### Analyze Visuals ▶

Examine the painting of Cupid. What details do you notice?

1. **quiver** (kwĭv’ər): a portable case for holding arrows.

2. **nymph** (nĭmf): any of a number of minor gods represented as beautiful maidens in Greek and Roman mythology.

“Promise I will never have to get married!” Daphne cried.

The river god, confused by his daughter’s frantic request, called back, “But I wish to have grandchildren!”

“No, Father! No! I *never* want to get married! Please, let me always be as free as Diana!”

30 “But I want you to marry!” cried the god.

“No!” screamed Daphne. And she beat the water with her fists, then rocked back and forth and sobbed.

“All right!” shouted the river god. “Do not grieve so, Daphne! I promise I’ll never make you marry!” **B**

“And promise you’ll help me escape my suitors!” cried the huntress.

“I promise, I will!” called the river god.

**A**fter Daphne secured this promise from her father, Cupid aimed his second arrow—the sharp, gold-tipped one—at Apollo, who was wandering in the woods. Just as the young god came  
40 upon Daphne, Cupid pulled back the tight string of his bow and shot the golden arrow into Apollo’s heart.

The god instantly fell in love with Daphne. Even though the huntress’s hair was wild and she wore only rough animal skins, Apollo thought she was the most beautiful woman he’d ever seen.

“Hello!” he cried. But Daphne gave him a startled look, then bolted into the woods like a deer.

Apollo ran after her, shouting, “Stay! Stay!” But Daphne fled as fast as the wind.

50 “Don’t run, please!” cried Apollo. “You flee like a dove flees an eagle. But I’m not your enemy! Don’t run from me!”

Daphne continued to run.

“Stop!” Apollo cried.

Daphne did not slow down. **D**

“Do you know who I am?” said the god. “I am not a farm boy or a shepherd. I am Lord of Delphi! Son of Jupiter! I’ve slain a great serpent with my arrow! But alas, I fear Cupid’s weapons have wounded me worse!”

Daphne continued to run, her bare limbs lit by the sun and her soft hair wild in the wind.

60 Apollo grew tired of begging her to stop, so he began to pick up speed. On the wings of love, running more swiftly than he’d ever run before, the god of light and truth gave the girl no rest, until soon he was close upon her. **C**

Her strength gone, Daphne could feel Apollo’s breath on her hair. “Help me, Father!” she cried to the river god. “Help me!”

**B CULTURAL VALUES**

Reread lines 25–34. In what way does Daphne’s behavior show disrespect toward elders?

**D GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT**

The author uses a variety of sentence structures in this passage. What is the effect of the very short simple sentences in lines 51 and 53? Why are these simple sentences more effective than compound sentences would have been?

**C PREDICT**

How do you think the myth will end?



*Apollo and Daphne* (1565–1570), Paolo Veronese. Oil on canvas, 109.4 cm × 113.3 cm.  
© San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, California/Bridgeman Art Library.

No sooner had she spoken these words, than her arms and legs grew heavy and turned to wood. Then her hair became leaves, and her feet became roots growing deep into the ground. She had become a laurel tree;<sup>3</sup> and nothing was left of her, but her **exquisite** loveliness.

Apollo embraced the tree's branches as if they were Daphne's arms.  
70 He kissed her wooden flesh. Then he pressed his hands against the tree's trunk and wept.

"I feel your heart beating beneath this bark," Apollo said, tears running down his face. "Since you can't be my wife, you'll be my **sacred** tree. I'll use your wood for my harp and for my arrows. I'll weave your branches into a wreath for my head. Heroes and scholars will be crowned with your leaves.<sup>4</sup> You'll always be young and green—my first love, Daphne." 🌀 ④

3. laurel tree: a Mediterranean evergreen tree with fragrant leaves and small, blackish berries.

4. Heroes and scholars . . . your leaves: In ancient times, a wreath of laurel leaves was often given to poets, heroes, and victors in athletic contests as a mark of honor.

### ◀ Analyze Visuals

How do the people in this painting compare with your mental picture of Apollo and Daphne?

**exquisite** (ěk'skwĩ-z'ít) *adj.* of extraordinary beauty or charm

**sacred** (sā'krĩd) *adj.* worthy of great respect; holy

### ④ CULTURAL VALUES

Think about what happens to Apollo. What lessons does the myth teach?

# THE GREAT BEAR

## The Story of Callisto and Arcus



ONE day Jupiter, god of the skies, fell in love with a lovely forest maiden named Callisto. Later, when Jupiter's jealous wife, Juno, heard that Callisto had given birth to Arcus, Jupiter's son, she flew into a terrible rage. The goddess quickly descended from Mount Olympus and searched the woods until she found Callisto playing under a tree with her small child.

When Callisto saw Juno, she cried out in fear, for all mortals knew about Juno's jealous rages.

"So, your beauty has captivated my husband!" Juno shouted. "Well, let's see how he likes you *this way!*"

As Callisto begged forgiveness, her skin became covered with coarse black hair. Her hands and feet turned to giant paws with sharp claws springing from them. Her mouth became filled with huge terrible teeth, and her voice turned into a deep growl — for Juno had changed the lovely maiden into a ferocious-looking bear.

Callisto still loved her small son, but as she lumbered toward him, he screamed in fear. Then the nymphs rushed from the woods and snatched the boy away from the giant bear.

Everyone was afraid of Callisto now that she was a huge black

## FAVORITE GREEK MYTHS

bear. No one knew that she was just as kind and loving as she'd always been. Hunted by men and dogs, she was forced to wander the woods and hide. She also fled from other wild animals — even bears like herself — for she didn't know how to fight, and she had no desire to learn.

At first Callisto tried to stay close to the hut where her son now lived with his new parents. Whenever Arcus took solitary walks, she lumbered close by, staying hidden among the trees. And at dawn, she crept to his window and watched him sleeping. Arcus often told his new parents that he was being watched by a giant black bear, but they told him he was only dreaming.

The great bear, pursued more and more by hunters and dogs, was finally forced to hide deep in the woods, far from her child.

But one winter night, many years later, the bear had a dream about Arcus, her son; and when she woke, she deeply yearned for him. As soon as spring came, she left her cave in the forest and journeyed back to the land where she had once lived.

One twilight, as the bear wandered the familiar woods, remembering her past, she came upon a young hunter aiming his arrow at a distant bird. She froze — for she instantly knew that this was Arcus, her son by Jupiter. Overcome with love for the boy, the bear watched him pull back his bowstring and shoot the arrow at the bird.

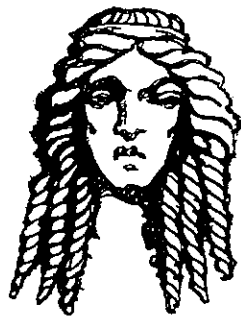
When the arrow missed, the bear was glad. Since she was a wild animal herself, she wanted all creatures to escape from hunters. But then Arcus turned and saw the bear watching him, and his muscles became taut with fear. Slowly he raised his bow and aimed his arrow directly at the bear. Unable to move, the bear only stared at her son with mute grief.

But just at that moment, Jupiter happened to look down upon the earth from Mount Olympus, and he saw what was about to

## THE GREAT BEAR

happen. He moved quickly to save the bear, for he had once loved her very much when she'd been a young maiden. As fast as a lightning bolt, he swept down from his mountain, snatched Callisto, and hurled her into the night sky. Then Jupiter grabbed Arcus and hurled him also into the heavens where he became a small bear beside his mother.

Then *both* bears turned into stars. And thereafter, they lived together in the sky and were known as the Great Bear and the Little Bear constellations. When jealous Juno discovered them, however, she commanded Neptune, god of the sea, to forbid the two bears to descend into the ocean like the other stars. For this reason, the Great Bear and Little Bear are the only two constellations that never set below the horizon.





# THE STORY OF CERES AND PROSERPINA

Retold by Mary Pope Osborne

One day Proserpina, the young maiden of spring, was picking wildflowers with her mother, Ceres, the goddess of grain. Entering the cool moist woods, Proserpina filled her basket with lilies and violets. But when she spied the white petals of the narcissus flower, she strayed far from her mother.

Just as Proserpina picked a beautiful narcissus, the earth began to rumble. Suddenly the ground cracked open, splitting fern beds and ripping flowers and trees from their roots. Then out of the dark depths sprang Pluto, god of the underworld. **A**

10 Standing up in his black **chariot**, Pluto ferociously drove his stallions toward Proserpina. The maiden screamed for her mother, but Ceres was far away and could not save her.

Pluto grabbed Proserpina and drove his chariot back into the earth. Then the ground closed up again, leaving not even a seam.

When the mountains echoed with Proserpina's screams, her mother rushed into the woods, but it was too late—her daughter had disappeared.

Beside herself with grief, Ceres began searching for her kidnapped daughter in every land. For nine days the goddess did not rest, but carried two torches through the cold nights, searching for Proserpina.

## Analyze Visuals ►

What can you tell about the girl's emotions, based on her body positioning and the fuzziness of the illustration?

### **A** CLASSICAL MYTHS

Reread lines 6–9. What extraordinary power is Pluto exhibiting?

**chariot** (chär'ē-ət) *n.*  
a two-wheeled vehicle  
used in ancient times

20 On the tenth day, Hecate, goddess of the dark of the moon, came to Ceres. Holding up a lantern, the **shrouded** goddess said, “I also heard your daughter’s screams, but I didn’t see her. Let us fly to Helios, the sun god, and ask him what happened.”

Ceres and Hecate flew to Helios, the sun god; and weeping, Ceres asked Helios if he’d seen her daughter while he was shining down upon the woods.

“I pity you, Ceres,” said Helios, “for I know what it is to lose a child. But I know the truth. Pluto wanted Proserpina for his wife, so he asked his brother, Jupiter, to give him permission to kidnap her. Jupiter gave  
30 his consent, and now your daughter reigns over the land of the dead with Pluto.”

Ceres screamed in rage and thrust her fist toward Mount Olympus,<sup>1</sup> cursing Jupiter for aiding in the kidnapping of his own daughter. Then she returned to earth, disguised as an old woman, and began wandering from town to town.

One day as she rested by a well, Ceres watched four princesses gathering water. Remembering her own daughter, she began to weep.

“Where are you from, old woman?” one princess asked. ◆

“I was kidnapped by pirates, and I escaped,” said Ceres. “Now I know  
40 not where I am.”

Feeling pity for her, the princesses brought Ceres home to their palace. At the palace, their mother, the queen, took an immediate liking to Ceres when she noticed how good she was with her baby son the prince. When she asked Ceres if she would live with them and be his nurse, the goddess gladly consented.

Ceres grew deeply fond of the child. The thought that he would someday grow old and die was too much for her to bear. So she decided to change him from a mortal to a god. Every night, when everyone else was asleep, she poured a magic liquid on the body of the baby prince and  
50 held him in a fire. Soon the prince began to look like a god; everyone was amazed at his beauty and strength. The queen, disturbed by the changes in her child, hid in the nursery and watched Ceres and the boy. And when she saw Ceres place the child into the fire, she screamed for help.

“Stupid woman!” shouted Ceres, snatching the baby from the fire. “I was going to make your son a god! He would have lived forever! Now he’ll be a mere mortal and die like the rest of you!”

The king and queen then realized that the boy’s nurse was Ceres, the powerful goddess of grain, and they were terrified. ⓑ

**shrouded** (shroud’əd)  
*adj.* concealed or hidden

### Language Coach

**Word Roots** The word root *wander* comes from the Old English word meaning “to travel.” How does knowing this root give you a clue to the meaning of the word *wandering* (line 34)?

### ◆ GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

Titles used for royalty—king, queen, prince, princess (as in line 38), duke, etc.—are only capitalized when they are used as a name or directly before a name, as in *Queen Elizabeth* or *Prince William*.

### ⓑ CLASSICAL MYTHS

Myths and other classical stories have **motifs**, or recurring story elements, such as magical transformations and wicked stepmothers. This passage features a common motif: a god or goddess takes a human form, but the disguise is ruined when people see the god do something extraordinary. Look for other motifs in this myth, and ask yourself how they affect the story.

1. **Mount Olympus** (ə-līm’pəs): the highest point in Greece and home of the gods and goddesses.

“I will only forgive you,” said Ceres, “if you build a great temple  
60 in my honor. Then I will teach your people the secret rites to help the  
corn grow.” **C**

At dawn the king ordered a great temple be built for the goddess.  
But after the temple was completed, Ceres did not reveal the secret  
rites. Instead she sat by herself all day, grieving for her kidnapped daughter.  
She was in such deep mourning that everything on earth stopped growing.  
It was a terrible year—there was no food, and people and animals began  
to starve. **D**

Jupiter grew worried—if Ceres caused the people on earth to die, there  
would be no more gifts and offerings for him. Finally he sent gods from  
70 Mount Olympus to speak with her.

The gods came to Ceres and offered her gifts and pleaded with her to  
make the earth **fertile** again.

“I never will,” she said, “not unless my daughter is returned safely to me.”

Jupiter had no choice but to bid his son, Mercury, the messenger god,  
to return Proserpina to her mother.

Wandering the underworld, Mercury passed through dark smoky  
caverns filled with ghosts and phantoms, until he came to the misty

**C CAUSE AND EFFECT**

Reread lines 46–61.

What are the effects  
of the queen’s scream?

**D CLASSICAL MYTHS**

What extraordinary  
abilities has Ceres  
displayed?

**fertile** (fûr’tl) *adj.*

able to produce farm  
crops or other vegetation

**▼ Analyze  
Visuals**

What **mood**, or feeling,  
is conveyed through this  
illustration?



throne room of Pluto and Proserpina. Though the maiden was still frightened, she had grown  
80 accustomed to her new home and had almost forgotten her life on earth.

“Your brother, Jupiter, has ordered you to return Proserpina to her mother,” Mercury told Pluto. “Otherwise, Ceres will destroy the earth.”

Pluto knew he could not disobey Jupiter, but he didn’t want his wife to leave forever, so he said, “She can go. But first, we must be alone.”

When Mercury left, Pluto spoke softly to  
90 Proserpina: “If you stay, you’ll be queen of the underworld, and the dead will give you great honors.”

As Proserpina stared into the eyes of the king of the dead, she dimly remembered the joy of her mother’s love. She remembered wildflowers in the woods and open sunlit meadows. “I would rather return,” she whispered.

Pluto sighed, then said, “All right, go. But before you leave, eat this  
100 small seed of the pomegranate fruit. It is the food of the underworld—it will bring you good luck.”

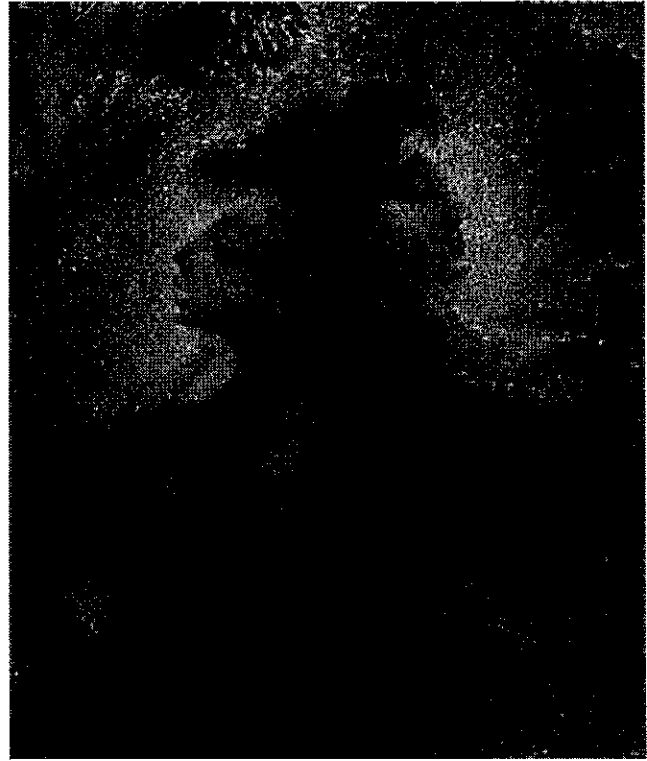
Proserpina ate the tiny seed. Then Pluto’s black chariot carried her and Mercury away. The two stallions burst through the dry ground of earth—then galloped over the **barren** countryside to the temple where Ceres mourned for her daughter.

When Ceres saw her daughter coming, she ran down the hillside, and Proserpina sprang from the chariot into her mother’s arms. All day the two talked excitedly of what had happened during their separation, but when Proserpina told Ceres about eating the pomegranate seed,  
110 the goddess hid her face and moaned in anguish.

“What have I done?” cried Proserpina.

“You have eaten the sacred food of the underworld,” said Ceres. “Now you must return for half of every year to live with Pluto, your husband.”

**A**nd this is how the seasons began—for when fall and winter come, the earth grows cold and barren because Proserpina lives in the underworld with Pluto, and her mother mourns. But when her daughter comes back to her, Ceres, goddess of grain, turns the world to spring and summer: The corn grows, and everything flowers again. ♪



**barren** (băr'ən) *adj.*  
unable to produce or  
without vegetation

**E CAUSE AND EFFECT**  
What are the effects  
of the trick Pluto plays  
on Proserpina?