



2022 THEME: Heroic Helpers

ADMINISTRATION DATES: March 21 to April 8, 2022

Behind every hero lies a cast of characters whose assistance, at times unwitting or even initially unwilling, enabled the hero to achieve greatness. This year's theme, Heroic Helpers, focuses on those—human, non-human, and divine—who at one time helped **Theseus, Jason, Odysseus, and Psyche** in their heroic quests, but have stories and motivations of their own, which sometimes complicate the “heroic” narrative.

The questions for the Medusa Mythology Exam are **not** exclusively based on the keywords listed below. Studying beyond what is listed here is strongly encouraged. There may be questions on the exam that are not covered below but do fit within the parameters of the exam theme. Familiarity with the context of the mythological stories indicated by the keywords is necessary.

Students are responsible for knowing both Greek and Latin names. Names on the exam will follow the spellings listed on etclassics.org. If a question refers to a specific version of a classical story, the question will cite the Greek or Roman author.

HERO	KEYWORDS	RESOURCES
<i>Theseus</i>	-Aethra -Ariadne -Hecale -Heracles -Leos -Pirithous	-Plutarch, <i>Life of Theseus</i> 31 -Ovid, <i>Heroides</i> 10; <i>Metamorphoses</i> 8 -Plutarch, <i>Life of Theseus</i> 14 -Plutarch, <i>Life of Theseus</i> 31 -Plutarch, <i>Life of Theseus</i> 13 -Plutarch, <i>Life of Theseus</i> 31 and 35
<i>Jason</i>	-Argonauts -Cyzicus -Hera -Hypsipyle -Medea -Phineus	-Apollonius, <i>Argonautica</i> 1 -Apollonius, <i>Argonautica</i> 1 -Apollonius, <i>Argonautica</i> 1; Apollodorus, <i>Bibliotheca</i> 1 -Apollonius, <i>Argonautica</i> 1 -Apollonius, <i>Argonautica</i> 3-4; Euripides, <i>Medea</i> -Apollonius, <i>Argonautica</i> 2
<i>Odysseus</i>	-Achilles -Alcinous and Arete -Athena -Calypso -Circe -Diomedes -Eumaeus	-Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 13; Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 9 -Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 6-8 -Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 1-3, 5-7, 13, 16, 22, 24 -Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 5 -Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 10-11 -Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 9-11 -Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 14, 21, 22

Psyche

- Hermes
- Nausicaa
- Philoetius
- Telemachus
- Trojan War
- Ants
- Ceres
- Eagle
- Juno
- Mercury
- Proserpina
- Salacia
- Tower
- Venus
- Zephyr
- Homer, *Odyssey* 5, 10
- Homer, *Odyssey* 6
- Homer, *Odyssey* 20-24
- Homer, *Odyssey* 1-2, 15-16, 22
- Homer, *Iliad* 1-5
- Apuleius, *The Golden Ass* 6
- Apuleius, *The Golden Ass* 4
- Apuleius, *The Golden Ass* 6
- Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*
- Apuleius, *The Golden Ass* 4

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The following resources are recommended to perform well on the Medusa Mythology Exam. We have provided references to classical sources as well as to later mythological summaries and secondary sources. Since some questions on the exam may refer to a particular classical author's account of a myth, reading the primary sources is particularly recommended. N.B. Check the version of the myth cited in the "Resources" column in the syllabus above.

PRIMARY SOURCES

- Apollonius Rhodius, *Argonautica*
- Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*
- Euripides, *Medea*
- Homer, *Iliad*
- Homer, *Odyssey*
- Ovid, *Heroides*
- Ovid, *Metamorphoses*
- Plutarch, *Life of Theseus*

SECONDARY SOURCES

- www.theoi.com
- Bulfinch, Thomas, *Greek and Roman Mythology*
- Grant, Michael and Hazel, John, *Who's Who in Classical Mythology*
- Graves, Robert, *Greek Gods and Heroes* and *The Greek Myths*
- Grimal, Pierre, *The Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology*
- Guerber, H.A. *The Myths of Greece and Rome*
- Hamilton, Edith, *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*
- Lefkowitz, Mary, *Women in Greek Myth*
- Morford, Mark and Lenardon, Robert, *Classical Mythology*
- *Oxford Classical Dictionary*
- Tripp, Edward, *Handbook of Classical Mythology*

MYTHICAL RETELLINGS

Please note the following are recommended for pleasure and are **not** authoritative sources for the exam questions.

- Fry, Stephen, *Heroes*
- Fry, Stephen, *Mythos*

2021-2022 Medusa Exam: Heroic Helpers

Directions: read each question carefully and select the answer that BEST fits the question. You will have 40 minutes to complete the exam. Bonam fortunam!

1. What cousin of Ariadne, a resourceful and intelligent woman in her own right, unfortunately confronted the same situation as Ariadne did – helping a hero succeed in his mission, only to be abandoned by him? Coincidentally, this cousin attempted to kill Theseus later in life.
 - a. Medea
 - b. Phaedra
 - c. Nausicaa
 - d. Circe
2. A nymph delayed Odysseus' journey home by "hosting" him for seven years on what island?
 - a. Aeaea
 - b. Aea
 - c. Ogygia
 - d. Ithaca
3. For her second task in appeasement of Venus, gathering golden fleece from vicious poisonous sheep, Psyche received aid from...
 - a. a nightingale.
 - b. the river god Albula.
 - c. Mercury.
 - d. a musical, rustling reed.
4. Which goddess asked Aphrodite to send her son Eros to make Medea fall in love with Jason?
 - a. Thetis
 - b. Athena
 - c. Hera
 - d. Iris



5. On what island did Theseus abandon Ariadne, betraying his promise to marry her after she left her homeland and family to help him?
 - a. Crete
 - b. Naxos
 - c. Samos
 - d. Lesbos

6. Who first offered Psyche comforting advice as she wandered the land after Cupid's desertion?
 - a. Zephyr
 - b. Ceres
 - c. Echo
 - d. Pan

7. What item, a gift from the Cretan princess Ariadne, enabled Theseus to navigate the famously inescapable Labyrinth?
 - a. A reflective shield
 - b. A helm of invisibility
 - c. A golden girdle
 - d. A ball of thread

8. After ranting at Cupid for falling in love with Psyche, whom did Venus encounter and ask for help?
 - a. Ceres and Proserpina
 - b. the Furies
 - c. Juno and Ceres
 - d. Vulcan and Hermes

9. Unlike most heroes who set off on their quests either alone or with a single sidekick, Jason required the help of at least 50 heroes – according to Apollodorus – who were known as the...
 - a. Heracleidae
 - b. Argonauts
 - c. Atlanteans
 - d. Boreads

10. According to Apollonius, which of Jason's comrades persuaded Queen Hypsipyle that they were not Thracians seeking revenge, but had come to Lemnos in peace?
 - a. Heracles
 - b. Aethalides
 - c. Atalanta
 - d. Medea

11. What former Boeotian queen and granddaughter of Ares delivered Odysseus from Poseidon's wrath in Book V of the Odyssey?
 - a. Calypso
 - b. Arete
 - c. Ino
 - d. Melanthe

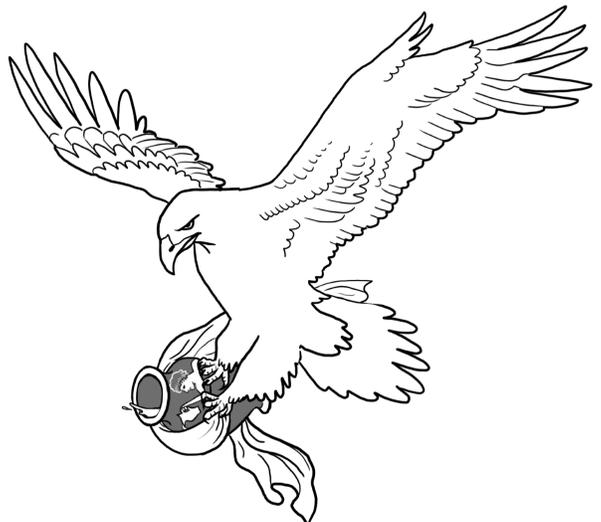
12. What hero came to the aid of Theseus when he was trapped in the Underworld after a misguided foray there, and pleaded with Hades for his release?
- Heracles
 - Odysseus
 - Orpheus
 - Perseus
13. Who foiled Odysseus' attempt to appear insane by putting Odysseus' own infant son in front of his plow as the hero sowed salt into his fields? This trick earned him the Ithacan's permanent ire.
- Nauplius
 - Palamedes
 - Diomedes
 - Teucer
14. According to some versions of the myth, Theseus assisted Heracles in acquiring a girdle, and in the process, Theseus met his future wife...
- Phaedra.
 - Penthesilea.
 - Hippolyta.
 - Medea.

15. Ariadne was said to be beloved by the gods, and by one in particular. Who was this god who married her after her abandonment by Theseus and honored her with a constellation in the heavens?
- Zeus
 - Apollo
 - Dionysus
 - Hermes



16. Not all heroes are grateful to those who help them on their quests. According to Euripides, which hero's complete disregard for his lover's aid and sacrifice resulted in the deaths of his future bride, his future father-in-law, and his two sons?
- Heracles
 - Theseus
 - Odysseus
 - Jason
17. Occasionally, Jason and his companions actually helped others while on their quest to seize the golden fleece. From what fate did Jason and his companions save Phineus?
- Poverty
 - Loneliness
 - Blindness
 - Starvation

18. What companion of Jason accepted the challenge of Amycus, king of the Bebrycians, to engage in a boxing match with him as a condition for the king allowing Jason and his men to leave his kingdom?
- Castor
 - Polydeuces
 - Talaus
 - Ancaeus
19. It was Jason's reliance on Medea's assistance that enabled him to seize the golden fleece from Colchis. Which of the following were NOT examples of the help that Jason received?
- Medea's murder of her younger brother
 - Medea's chariot of dragons
 - Medea's fireproof ointment
 - Medea's sleeping potion
20. In an effort to help his daughter, whom no one wanted to marry, Psyche's father...
- made costly sacrifices to Venus.
 - offered her hand in marriage to a powerful king.
 - hid her away in a tower.
 - consulted an oracle.
21. When the Pallantides, the sons of Pallas, opposed Theseus for the kingdom of Athens, what herald betrayed them by warning Theseus of their attack plans?
- Lichas
 - Copreus
 - Leos
 - Hylas
22. In the first arduous task set by Venus, sorting a heap of grains, seeds, and legumes, Psyche was helped by...
- ants.
 - mice.
 - sparrows.
 - Zephyr.
23. Jupiter's eagle was moved to help Psyche in the third task that Venus set her, filling a vessel with Stygian waters, because...
- he was afraid she would spill the water and pollute the nearby woods.
 - she reminded him of the goddess Hebe.
 - he knew that Cupid severely punished those who disappointed him.
 - he was inspired by his memory of having assisted Cupid in bringing Ganymede to Jupiter.



24. In Apuleius' account of Cupid and Psyche, the sea goddess Salacia, who accompanied Venus across the sea, was described as...
- sprinkling the waves with salty spray.
 - wearing a garment that was full of fish.
 - spreading her blue-green hair along the waves.
 - wearing a gown of seaweed.
25. What human helper did Odysseus encounter first when he returned to Ithaka?
- Eumaeus
 - Telemachus
 - Mentor
 - Eurycleia
26. Who swore to sacrifice to the god Zeus if Theseus successfully captured the Marathonian Bull, only to die before seeing his return?
- Hecale
 - Aegeus
 - Aethra
 - Hippolyta
27. With what close friend did Theseus make a pact to kidnap Helen and Persephone to make them their wives?
- Idas
 - Lynceus
 - Pirithous
 - Menestheus
28. When Odysseus first encounters Nausicaa and seeks her help after his raft was destroyed and he was washed up onto her island, he wins her over by...
- promising to marry her to his son Telemachus.
 - claiming he was the son of Hermes.
 - amusing her with self-deprecating jokes.
 - comparing her to the shoot of a young palm tree he saw on Delos.
29. Psyche's sisters had a tendency to offer horrible advice. The weapon Psyche's sisters advised her to use to kill her "serpent" husband was...
- a golden dagger.
 - a curved sword.
 - a subtle poison.
 - a sharp razor.
30. As the ghosts surged forward following Heracles' departure, Odysseus' fear of what horrifying apparition forced him to finally retreat to his boat?
- Medusa
 - Tityus
 - Orion
 - Echidna

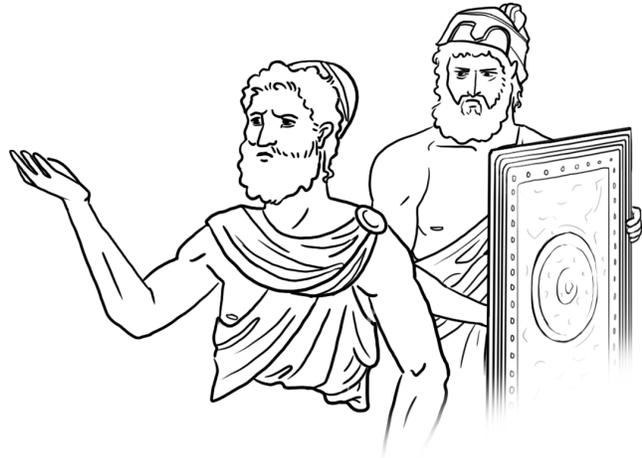
31. Odysseus' relative and second-in-command, _____, waited outside Circe's house when the other men in his group went inside, since he suspected treachery.
- Perimedes
 - Elpenor
 - Deucalion
 - Eurylochus
32. Which of the following characters did NOT perish as a result of Jason's quest to seize the golden fleece?
- Cyzicus
 - Absyrtus
 - Khalkotauroi (bulls with bronze hooves and mouths)
 - Talos
33. Sometimes, to get a little help you need to give a little help. Whose favor did Jason win when he carried her across the river Anaurus?
- Hera
 - Medea
 - Athena
 - Hypsipyle
34. "Teamwork makes the dream work." Missions during the Trojan War often used a buddy system. Which of the following missions is NOT described in the *Iliad*?
- Odysseus accompanies Menelaus to ask for the return of Helen
 - Odysseus and Phoenix recruit Neoptolemus
 - Odysseus and Diomedes steal Rhesus' horses
 - Odysseus and Nestor persuade Patroclus to return to the fighting
35. Venus learned of Cupid's lamp-oil burn with the help of...
- a pelican.
 - an albatross.
 - a gull.
 - a dove.
36. Some might say that Odysseus' cleverness and tactical acuity – skills that often enabled him to escape tricky situations – were in his blood. What famous thief was said to be Odysseus' maternal grandfather, from whom he may have inherited these traits?
- Sisyphus
 - Autolycus
 - Eurytus
 - Ortilochus
37. Just when Psyche became convinced that her last task was impossible, _____ informed her that she should seek an entrance to the underworld.
- a talking tower
 - a babbling brook
 - a cacophonous cavern
 - a whispering wall

38. As Psyche wandered about searching for Cupid after he had abandoned her, whose temple did she first come upon, where she tidied the altar though she received no help in return?

- a. Ceres'
- b. Juno's
- c. Hestia's
- d. Venus'

39. With whom did Odysseus contend for the arms of Achilles?

- a. Diomedes
- b. Teucer
- c. Agamemnon
- d. Telamonian Ajax



40. After kidnapping the young Helen, with whom did Theseus deposit her for safekeeping, probably hoping that the two women would get along nicely?

- a. Phaedra
- b. Antiope
- c. Aethra
- d. Ariadne

Answer Key:

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. D
7. D
8. C
9. B
10. B
11. C
12. A
13. B
14. C
15. C
16. D
17. D
18. B
19. B
20. D
21. C
22. A
23. D
24. B
25. A
26. A
27. C
28. D
29. FREE POINT
30. A
31. D
32. C
33. A
34. B
35. C
36. B
37. A
38. A
39. D
40. C