Arachne



This activity based on the story of Arachne, one of the most popular Greek myth, has been designed to devise a way in which everyone in the class could participate in a retelling of the story as well as take on the flavour of a Greek play.

Suitable for students aged 8+

The Learning Outcome will be that students will be able to demonstrate a greater understanding of the Greek myth "Arachne" and will be able to work collaboratively.

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Collaborative Learning



Arachne

Developed by Jane Cairns at Tolworth Junior School Illustrations by Peter Bennett

Theme: Greek Mythology Age range: 8+

Context:

This activity based on the story of Arachne, one of the most popular Greek myth, has been designed to devise a way in which everyone in the class could participate in a retelling of the story as well as take on the flavour of a Greek play.

Preparation:

Print out the A₄ sheets.

If possible, laminate the Chorus Text and cover the pages of the cards with 'clear pvc self adhesive film'. Then cut along the dotted lines and make the cards.

HOW TO PLAY:

Divide the class in two groups. Each group has given a set of cards and a Chorus text. Students read the information on the cards and on the chorus two or three times. One group of student mime the story. The rest of the class became the chorus, and shared out the statements between them so they could comment in twos and threes as the events were presented. As in a traditional Greek chorus, sometimes they talk to an 'audience' sometimes they speak directly to the characters and sometimes they speak aloud to themselves.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate a greater understanding of the Greek myth "Arachne" and will be able to work collaboratively. If you have found further learning outcomes please share them by emailing collaborate@mantralingua.com

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(You can purchase a professionally printed, sound-enabled version of this activity with pre-cut cards from www.mantralingua.com. Students can use PENpal to record and re-record aurally onto the pages and cards. Recordings can be saved and used for assessment, or shared with other classes and schools via "ShareLINK".)



Collaborative Learning



The Chorus speaks:

1. We are going to visit the village where Arachne and her father live. It looks as if they are having an argument.

2. Stop that Arachne! You should treat your father with more respect. He has brought you up, and treated you well. The gods may punish people who are ungrateful.

3. Your weaving looks good, Arachne, but you boast about it too much. We think that you must have learned how to weave so well from the great goddess Athene.

4. Now we can hear the thunder rumbling. The gods are angry, and now that you have challenged Athene, you had better watch out. The gods are very strong and can always see and hear what is going on.

(a little later)

5. Look there's Arachne! She is weaving as usual. We can se an ugly old woman coming to visit. We're certain that Arachne won't welcome her.

6. Goodness! Arachne is still not frightened by Athene. Arachne, listen! Athene is powerful. She can destroy you! She could turn you into anything she likes!

7. Look at the two weavers! They are working so hard. They are both making designs about the gods.

8. Oh no! Arachne is impossible. Even her cloth is rude about the gods. We had better go and hide somewhere safe.

9. Now Athene is going to look at Arachne's cloth. She looks impressed by the work. Why look! Her face is turning red. Get back everybody!

10. What a sad ending, but we could see that this was going to happen. Arachne has deserved what has happened. You must treat the gods with respect.

11.Quick. Father of Arachne! Bow down to the goddess! Beg for your daughter's life.

12. So that is the end of the story. Arachne was saved, and now you might see her high up in the corner of a room. She is always busy weaving and weaving and weaving. She never stops. Let her life be a lesson to you. The gods are mighty and powerful.

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Stop that Arachne! You should treat your father with more respect. He has brought you up, and treated you well. The gods may punish people who are ungrateful.

Arachne - Cards

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8 2

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Look at the two weavers! They are working so hard. They are both making designs about the gods.

Oh no! Arachne is impossible. Even her cloth is rude about the gods. We had better go and hide somewhere safe.



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