# Greek Mythology Reading Guide

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Greek Name | Title | Symbol | Facts/Characteristics |
| Gaea/Uranus | Mother Earth (M.E.)Sky |  | Gaea: lonely, fell in love with the sky, children (titans, cyclopes, 100 armed monsters)Uranus – Lord of the Universe, magnificent |
| The Titans | Kids of Mother Earth and Sky |  | The youngest, Cronus, defeats Uranus (M.E. is mad because Uranus locked up her ugly children – monsters & Cyclopes)6 males/6 females |
| Cronus | Lord of the Universe (Youngest Titan) |  | Swallows 5 children, but swallows a rock instead of Zeus. M.E. and Rhea tricked Cronus. Zeus is being raised in Crete. |
| Zeus | New Lord of the Universe | Lightning Bolts | Threw lightning bolts, had many affairs, no one could match his powers, shared power with kids and siblings |
| Hera | Goddess of Marriage | Wedding Ring or Peacock | She is a very jealous wife/sister of Zeus. Hera turns Io, a woman Zeus is having an affair with, into a white cow and she keeps Io as a pet. Argus, Hera’s servant, keeps watch over Io with all his eyes. Hermes bores Argus to death and Io escapes. Explains how the peacock was created. Io becomes an Egyptian goddess.  |
| Hephaestus | God of Smiths and Fire (he forges weapons & metal work for the Gods) | Fire, anvil | Hephaestus is the peace-loving, kind son of Hera and Zeus. Married to Aphrodite. Explains volcanoes (working on his forge). Made the 12 golden thrones on Mt. Olympus and their weapons. |
| Aphrodite | Goddess of Love | Heart | Came from sea foam. Son is Eros (Cupid). |
| Ares | God of War | Sword, apple | Tall and handsome. He is vain (self-centered, arrogant). Opposite of his brother, Hephaestus. Son of Zeus and Hera. He whines about pain. All talk; no show. |
| Athena | Goddess of Wisdom | Owl | Born from Zeus’ head. Athena’s mom is Metis (fly eaten by Zeus). Explains spiders (Arachne – boasted better weaving). Athena gave Athens its name, had a competition with Poseidon. She gave them an olive tree and won.  |
| Poseidon | Lord of the Sea | Trident | He is moody, married Amphitrite, a sea nymph. Created the Delos, floating island where Leto gave birth to Apollo and Artemis. |
| Apollo | God of Light, Music, and Reason (Truth) | Music, light bulb | He defeats Python and captures Delphi (where the oracle lives). Son of Leto and Zeus. |
| Artemis | Goddess of the Hunt, Moon | Moon | She is a virgin goddess who vows never to marry. Turned a man watching her bathe into a deer. She and her twin brother Apollo, kill Niobe's 14 children because she bragged she had more children than their mother, Leto. She tricks Otus and Ephiliates into wounding each other after they threatened to overthrow Zeus. Orion was the only man that Artemis cared for, which made Apollo jealous. Apollo sends a scorpion to kill him, which explains the constellation of Orion.  |
| Hermes | Messenger of the Gods | Winged Cap | Stole Apollo’s cows, mischievous, made the first lyre, and explains where cairns came from. |
| Hades | Lord of the Dead | Skull & Crossbones or Tombstone | Ruled the Underworld, mortals fear him, married to Persephone, Cerberus is the three-headed dog that guards the Underworld. People put money in the mouth of the dead so they can pay to cross the River Styx. |
| Persephone | Daughter of Demeter | Flowers, sunshine | Stolen by Hades. Explains the seasons fall/winter in Underworld with Hades and spring/summer on Earth with her mother Demeter. She ate the seeds of a pomegranate, the food of the dead. |
| Dionysus | The God of Wine | Grapes | Son of Semele and Zeus. Hera was jealous of their relationship and tricked Semele into seeing Zeus in his splendor which killed her. He saved their son and sewed him to his leg until he was born.  |
| Prometheus |  |  |  |
| Pandora |  |  |  |
| Deucalion |  |  |  |
| Eos |  |  |  |
| Helios |  |  |  |
| Selene |  |  |  |
| Pan |  |  |  |
| Echo |  |  |  |
| Syrinx | Nymph who ran away from Pan |  | She turned herself into a reed to escape. Pan created a panpipe from the reeds.  |
| The centaurs | Half man, half horse |  | Crazy, wild, don’t follow rules. Cruel to their children. Chiron – was a good teacher, son of a Titan.  |
| Asclepius | Son of Apollo, taught by Chiron | Serpent staff | The first doctor, created hospitals. Zeus kills him after he starts accepting gold for bringing back the dead.  |
| The Muses | Nine daughters of Zeus and the Titaness Mnemonsyne. | Musical note | Apollo trained them to be a choir. They each had their own special art. |
| Orpheus | Son of Calliope, the Muse of Heroic Poetry |  | His wife, Euridice, dies of a snake bite. He goes to the underworld to get her back. Hades lets her go back, but Orpheus, must not look back at her, until they are out of the underworld. Right before he gets there he turns to see her and loses her again.  |
| Heracles | Zeus and Princess Alcemena were his parents. Strongest of all men on Earth. | Bicep, muscles | Hera and King Eurystheus come up with 10 Labors Heracles must perform to atone for killing his children. He was well respected. Hera hated him and made insane, so he’d kill innocent people. |
| Theseus |  |  |  |
| Oedipus | King of Thebes (Greece) | Eyeballs (gouges his eyes out for being blind to the truth)Crown (King of Thebes) | Tries to escape his fate – to kill his father and marry his mother, but he was not successful.  |