



## CBA 1 - STORYTELLING USING MYTH

### TASK

The student imaginatively reworks the myth of Cupid and Psyche, telling the well-known story from the perspective of Psyche, through the medium of a theatrical script.

### FORMAT

Theatre script.

### TITLE

‘Cupid and Psyche’

### TEACHING AND LEARNING

For CBA1 *Storytelling using myth*, students develop their storytelling abilities and learn how to bring an idea from concept to realisation by engaging creatively with the concept of myth in any approach or format, or combination of same, of their choosing.

The myth can be presented in a modern context, or in the context of the ancient world, but must adhere to the conventions and techniques of writing a myth as explored in the classroom.

Through this Classroom-Based Assessment, students will explore:

- the benefits and purposes of using myth as a form of storytelling
- the key features of a well-told myth
- how to develop a myth and prepare it for an audience
- how to develop and refine their storytelling ability through the medium of myth.



## INTRODUCTION

These exemplars are drawn from work completed by 2nd year students from different schools over a three-week period. The annotations provided for each exemplar refer to the three sets of Features of Quality set out in the Assessment Guidelines for each level of achievement (*Exceptional, Above expectations, In line with expectations*).

## SAMPLE 3: CUPID AND PSYCHE

This piece is a reworking of the myth of Cupid and Psyche, which explores how the two lovers must overcome various obstacles to their love before their ultimate union in marriage. In this version, the story is reimagined from the perspective of Psyche and is told through the medium of a theatrical script, incorporating elements of the musical theatre form and adapting various settings.



## EVIDENCE OF WORK

psyche and cupid

written by

cr



## 1 OPENING ON TEMPLE OF APPOLO

DAD (TO APOLLO)

Dear gods, Please may you help me and my family. You see my daughter psyche is cursed with the gift of beauty all those whom come nearer her are threatened by her beauty, looks and charm; no man will ever come to love her this way and she will be alone for ever!

APPOLO

Son we acknowledge the pain this is putting your family through! as much as on your daughter psyche as she is the only mortal woman who could ever compare to the gods just by looks alone !what I am going to recommend is that you bring your daughter up to the top of a cliff and leave her there .Do not tell her what is going on; once you leave her there you must leave in order for this to work.But know the gods and I will look after her from there!

## 2.PSYCHE AT HOME ALONE IN HOUSE SITTING ON HER BED LOOKING OUT HER WINDOW

*Dad walks into her room*

DAD

Have u been sitting here all day

*Psyche showing a face clearly saying that she had*

DAD (CONT'D)

Come on dear! Let's go out ;maybe we will find you a nice man how about that?

*Psyche following her dad out the door ; they mumble to each other while moving on a turn table until a set piece of a mountain is brought out on tracks .They go up on to the mountain piece stand there and looks out at the audience*

*They give each other a meaningful look*

DAD (CONT'D)

I have to go now ,but you stay here! I love you; be safe,be brave. don't look back something is gonna happen but you will be loved !

*She walks onto the mountain. Doesn't look back*

PSYCHE

DAD.... WAIT FOR ME !!!WHY ARE YOU LEAVING ME HERE DAD?!!!



2.

*Still looking out psyche get nervous and then follows  
by getting mad at herself;she sits at the front of  
the cliff*

STAGE GETS DARK AND SHE FALLS ASLEEP AT THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF  
(ACTOR GETS HERSELF HARNESSED INTO A STAGE RIGGING HARNESS)  
ASSEMBLE CLIMBS UP THE CLIFF AND PUSHES HER OF SHE GOES UP  
INTO THE AIR AND INTO THE STAGE LEFT WINGS STAGE DARK (ACTOR  
GET'S HERSELF INTO CORRECT POSITION ON THE STAGE)LIGHTS BACK  
UP AND WE SEE PSYCHE LIE ON A GRASS MEADOW

PSYCHE  
(wakes up)(see young girl  
with a water jug in her hand)

Where am I?

ISMENA  
You are at the house of your new beloved ,my dear!

PSYCHE  
May I ask whom he may be and who are you ?

ISMENA  
You shall see in time I'n the mean time,I am ismena your  
serf,; is there anything I can do for you?

PSYCHE  
Could you maybe show me around

ISMENA  
Yes I would love to dear

*Walk to the back of the stage*

ISMENA (CONT'D)  
This is your room dear

*Bedroom set piece comes forward to the top of the  
stage and opens up like a box to revile the most  
beautiful room with a beautiful candle chandler in the  
center and a huge 4 post queens sized bed*

PSYCHE  
Is this really all mine?

ISMENA  
Not exactly all yours, you will be sharing it with your  
husband



3.

PSYCHE

When can I met him?

ISMENA

Ok... here is the thing you will meet him tonight BUT... you will never see him

PSYCHE

What ?Why?

ISMENA

I can't tell you that, I'm sorry I can only tell you that he has got a good heart.Each night you will have to blow out all of the candles and leave the window open at all times ;if you ever get cold because of that ,ring the bell. My room is next door and I'll sorta you out.I'll leave you to get settled and go explore.Ring the bell if you need me.

PSYCHE

Thank you ismena

PSYCHE (CONT'D)

This is awesome I hope the man lives up to this standard

*She stars looking around her room flicks through the books and sits on couch watching the fire crackle*

PSYCHE (CONT'D)

Oh god is that the time rings bell

*Ismena knocks on door*

PSYCHE (CONT'D)

Do you know what time my husband should be here at?

ISMENA

He should be here within in the next hour or so.If I were you I would get ready for bed,cause once he enters the room all lights have to be off.

PSYCHE

Why?

ISMENA

Like I told you earlier,you can't see him but he will definitely love you I can guarantee that ,who wouldn't.

PSYCHE

Thank you I'm gonna go get ready for bed now



4.

*Psyche get's ready for bed while humming to herself;she hops into bed and get's settled into it when all of a sudden the window and cupid burst trough*

PSYCHE (CONT'D)

HELLO? IS ANYONE HERE?

CUPID

Hello I'm hear

PSYCHE

Who are you?

CUPID

I'm your new husband;you must be psyche my new wife most beautiful person inside and out! I am already sure of that.Where are you?This room is massive, especially in the dark!

PSYCHE

I'm over beside the bedpost.

CUPID

So how has your day been?

PSYCHE

Well it has been like a day unlike any others!Lets just say that how about you?

CUPID

Well it got better!now that I get to be with you for the first time,my love!

PSYCHE

That's sweet! You're a bit of a romantic,aren't you?

CUPID

Are you tired ? cause i am  
(yawn)

PSYCHE

I actually really am!  
(laugh and yawn)

STAGE GETS DARK AND THEY FALL ASLEEP.BUT WHEN SHE GET UP THE NEXT MORNING AND START'S VOMITING, HER FACE REALIZED WHAT HAS HAPPENED SHE TURNS TO GO BACK TO BED BUT THE MAN ISN'T THERE SHE RINGS THE BELL

ISMENA

How are we this morning dear?



5.

PSYCHE

Ok I guess.I haven't stopped vomiting all morning

ISMENA

Oh!do you have any idea why that might be ?

PSYCHE

Well.....

(roles eyes over to the bed)

ISMENA

Oh I see. Do you know what you're gonna do?

PSYCHE

Well he seemed really nice and kind so I guess I will have to tell him?

ISMENA

Yes that might be a good idea are you hungry?

PSYCHE

Yes could I just get some bread and wine

*Ismena walks to the other side of the room*

*Ismena walks back in*

ISMENA

What are you gonna do for the day ?

PSYCHE

Guess i'll read from this massive library and wait for him to come back ,I really want to see his face; at least,I mean I should be allowed. I am having his child!It is only fair that I at least know what the baby will look like! and I wanna love every bit of him and my son.Even if he is hideous I will still love him

I just wanna see his face to make sure that the face he is showing matches my happiness when I'm around him

ISMENA

(sighs and shakes head)

Have a good day,dear

*clock on the wall moves to 10 o clock and a window opens and cupid climbs in*

PSYCHE

Hello?

CUPID

Hi where are you?





6.

PSYCHE  
I over here. How was your day?

CUPID  
I couldn't stop thinking about you!

PSYCHE  
Same

CUPID  
I'm so tired though

PSYCHE  
Me too

*They both hop into bed and chat and fall asleep until  
the clock hits 12 and wakes Psyche up. She slips into  
the bathroom and lights a single candle*

PSYCHE (CONT'D)  
If I walk through that door would it be a mistake! This should  
not be such a hard decision to make; after all it just a door  
I have walked through tones of them before then why am I so  
unsure? do I even want to know? on the count of three let  
just go for it

*She takes a deep breath and walks in with a single lit  
candle she walk over to the bed; at get a quick glance  
at cupid wings and jumps back scaring cupid and  
spilling wax all over him waking him up*

CUPID  
What are u doing?! I thought they told you to never do  
this!!

*He get out of bed and fly's out the window*

PSYCHE  
(singing)  
THAT BOY JUST THERE  
I SEE FEEL EVERYWHERE I GO  
HE SMILES, I STARE  
HAS THIS BEEN TURNED INTO MORE I JUST DON'T KNOW  
DON'T BE STUPID.  
TOLD MYSELF A MILLION TIMES BEFORE  
NO. DON'T BE FOOLISH.  
HE IS NOT YOUR KIND  
AND YOU'RE JUST.  
OUT OF YOUR HEAD IF YOU THINK THAT THIS EVER COULD BE  
YOU'RE DREAMING  
GO BACK TO BED, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR HEAD  
THINGS LIKE HIM DON'T HAPPEN  
[PSYCHE AND CUPID] ON DIFFERENT SIDES OF A WALL



7.

AND YOU'RE JUST...  
OUT OF YOUR HEAD IF YOU THINK THAT THIS EVER COULD BE  
YOU'RE DREAMING  
GO BACK TO BED, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR HEAD  
[PHYSCE ]  
BUT I LOVE HIM EVER SO



## TEACHER ANNOTATIONS

This piece is a creative and well-developed telling of the story but with an imaginative focus on the perspective of Psyche. The retelling retains the mystery and strangeness of the gods and the divine in the eyes of mortals. The atmosphere of the script is otherworldly, even eerie, yet the characters and their interactions continue to emphasise the central theme of love.

The conventions and techniques of storytelling displayed quite well. The piece introduces a new character (a maidservant named Ismena) to create dialogue when Cupid is not present. We also see the transportation of Psyche into an alternate world, Cupid's palace. There is a notable reference to stage mechanics in representing the winds of Zephyr, and a nice suggestion of the use of a turntable to facilitate the final journey of father and daughter and their intimate conversation before parting.

Other techniques invoked in the work include the use of humorous dialogue and the contrasting of light-hearted playfulness with mystery and change in tone for dramatic moments, for example, the father leaving his daughter on the cliff; and Cupid's flight. The intimate tone of the conversation between father and child at their parting is well-conceived.

The Psyche - Ismena interaction is a notable feature. It invokes gender stereotypes in Greek tragedy, acknowledging women as voiceless, downtrodden, unrepresented. Some polishing or refinement is desirable in the structure and dialogue, but the achievements here are impressive.

OVERALL JUDGEMENT:



Above expectations