



## CBA 1 - STORYTELLING USING MYTH

### TASK

The student creatively adapts the myth of Athena's birth to Zeus, placing it in a modern context. The work is a narration of the adapted and updated myth.

### FORMAT

Written narrative.

### TITLE

'Lason and Zeus'

### 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 2: LASON AND ZEUS

This sample is a creative reworking of the myth of Athena's birth to Zeus, updated to a contemporary school setting. Lason, a 12-year-old boy starting secondary school, is nervous and worried that he will be the victim of bullying by another boy named Alexis, who has already bullied him in primary school. He hears the story of Athena's birth through the forehead of Zeus in Classics class and learns that there are rumours that Zeus has appeared in the school, disguised as a young boy. Lason befriends a classmate named Lucas and confides in him that Alexis has bullied him since primary school. When Lucas observes Lason being bullied by Alexis, he becomes angry and transforms into Zeus, shocking Alexis and adding further weight to the rumours about Zeus appearing in the school. The myth is offered as a lesson not to bully other people.



## EVIDENCE OF WORK

Lason is a 12-year-old boy, starting his first year in secondary school. It's a cold September morning as Lucas boards the school bus. He makes his way down the bus, finds an empty seat by a window, and sits down. Lason is feeling nervous about his first day in school and doesn't feel like talking to anyone on the bus. He starts thinking about Alexis, a boy who bullied him since the start of primary school.

Alexis is a totally different person from Lason. He is confident, good looking and intimidating. He is tall with blonde hair, blue eyes, and sallow skin. Whereas Lason is short and skinny with long black greasy hair, brown eyes, and a pale skin complexion. Lason has always worn glasses since he can remember. His eyesight has gotten worse over the years, as a result, he has to wear thick-rimmed glasses. These made him stand out from the other pupils in his previous school. Whereas Alexis is confident in himself, Lason is very shy and introverted. Most people see him as a nerd. He is worried that Lason will bully him again because he is starting in the same school as him.

Lason's first class in the morning is classics, when he arrives at the school he follows the sign towards the classics room. Thankfully Alexis sat on the other side of the room and he didn't seem to notice him. In classics Mr Athan's the teacher told them the myth of Athena's Birth. How Zeus the god of the sky, had a headache and broke his head open because it was so painful, and out came Athena. He also explained there were rumours that Zeus disguised himself as a young boy in the school. Some boys have told stories that they have seen Zeus's face. Lason befriended a boy in his Classroom and felt comfortable enough to tell him about Alexis Bulling him and showing him who he was. His new Friend was called Lucas.

As everyone was going to their next class, Alexis came up behind Lason and pushed him into the wall and started insulting him. Lucas notices Lason shaking with fear. Lucas becomes angry because Lason is being bullied again. Within seconds Lucas changes into Zeus and before Alexis can do anything he shocks him. An angry Zeus Says in a demonic voice says That Chuck Ya.

Alexis run's out of the school building like a baby. Every time Alexis walks down his neighbourhood people laugh at him and make fun of him calling him the Shocker kid.

Every time Alexis walks down the street people just laugh at him and call him shocker boy. The lesson in this myth is not to bully people. Teachers and



Students in the school believe the school is haunted by the spirit of Zeus. Some teachers and students claim that they see a kid's head with Zeus's face and with the red eye's in the bathrooms of the school every Friday morning. Some people think it's a homeless man.

Many Teachers and students have heard and seen A boy with red eye's screaming in the bathroom, when you get close to the boy he vanishes into thin air. The boy looks different every day. The Principal of the school doesn't like locking the school up because he hears the boy crying and screaming. The boy sits in the Classics room and introduces himself as Lucas.

## TEACHER ANNOTATIONS

This creative reworking of a myth associated with Zeus is original. Rumours that the spirit of Zeus haunts the school are reinforced when he is revealed to have taken the form of a young student named Lucas, who transforms into the god to frighten a bully who is victimising a student named Lason, whom Lucas has befriended. The story explores the background to the bullying and offers insights into Lason's perspective as a young student nervous about starting secondary school.

The piece shows creativity in re-inventing and re-imagining a myth to make it new, with its own characters and plotline. The integration of the myth of Zeus and how he gave birth to Athena is cleverly done, with a Classics lesson providing the context for its introduction. The piece successfully relates the story of the myth to a moral message, that bullying is wrong, and shows good understanding of the relationship between mythical stories and a moral message.

The piece invokes contemporary second-level school TV/film tropes well. In this context, there is good recognition shown of the techniques of storytelling. For example, the atmosphere is set in such lines as 'It's a cold September morning as Lucas boards the school bus'.

The power and fascination of myth for human beings is evoked, as well as an awareness of the capacity of gods to take human forms: 'Teachers and students believe the school is haunted by the spirit of Zeus. Some teachers and students claim that they see a kid's head with Zeus's face ...'

The different and innovative approach adopted in writing a new myth, based on a famous myth, is commended. The overall shape and structure demonstrate originality and creativity. However, there are some weaknesses in the clarity and coherence of the storyline.

OVERALL JUDGEMENT:



In line with expectations