Mythology Supplemental Standards for English Language Arts

Introduction

Mythology preserves the cultural heritage, values, beliefs, and traditions that have defined civilizations throughout history. Studying classical, world, and indigenous mythology can spark students' creativity and develop their appreciation for the diversity of human cultures. By analyzing these universal narratives, students gain a deeper understanding of and respect for the shared human experience and the historical and modern significance of myths, legends, and folklore. Students will also develop critical evaluation, communication, and research skills.

Mythology courses are applied or advanced courses that may be used to fulfill up to one credit of the English Language Arts graduation requirement. These standards align with the Utah Core Standards for English Language Arts.

Strand 1: Analysis of Genre. Students will develop an understanding of the genre of classical, world, and indigenous myths, legends, and folklore.
- Standard 1.1: Analyze the characteristics & purposes of different types of myths, legends, and folklore from a variety of cultures.
- Standard 1.2: Evaluate the significance of recurring themes, motifs, structures, and patterns in myths, legends, and folklore.
- Standard 1.3: Analyze the relevance and influence of myths, legends, and folklore on literature, art, and societal values within their respective cultures.

Strand 2: Relationships & Hierarchies of Characters and Deities. Students will develop an understanding of the relationships and hierarchies of characters and deities within myths, legends, and folklore.
- Standard 2.1: Identify archetypal characters and/or deities within myths and the roles they play across different cultures.
- Standard 2.2: Describe the complexities of the relationships and interactions between the characters and/or deities across and within different mythological and cultural systems.

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- Standard 2.3: Derive meanings about the relationships of "the divine", "the human", and "the physical" in regard to "the cosmos" using storytelling as a vehicle to moralize themes such as force, violence, hubris, agency, fate, love, and knowledge.

Strand 3: Context, Influence, and Significance. Students will investigate the historicity, influence, and significance of classical, world, and indigenous myths, legends, and folklore on modern cultures and societies.
- Standard 3.1: Describe how myths, legends, and folklore portray different versions of historical events, figures, and peoples.
- Standard 3.2: Analyze how myths, legends, and folklore reflect, influence, and shape the values of cultures and societies.
- Standard 3.3: Evaluate the influences and significance of classical and global myths, legends, and folklore on modern media and culture, including themes, motifs, and archetypes.

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