

## **Mythology**

### **Starry Nights**

#### **Creative Writing**

#### **Objective:**

After visiting the STARLAB planetarium, students will select a group of stars forming a pattern, name the group of stars according to the sky picture they see, draw their constellation, and write a story or myth relating to the constellation they select.

#### **Procedure:**

1. Prior to the STARLAB planetarium visit, discuss the terms constellation and mythology.
2. Read “The Story of Cassiopeia, the Queen” aloud with the students. Discuss its origin and purpose.
3. Ask students to observe the night sky inside the planetarium, selecting a star group that appears to form a picture.
4. Upon exiting the STARLAB, have the students draw the constellation they selected. It may be a “known” constellation or one that they create.
5. Students will write their own myth or story describing the constellation of their choice. They should NOT use an existing myth. The story must be an original composition. Prewriting should be the initial step.
6. Students now complete a rough draft and participate in the peer revision process utilizing the attached rubric. Revise and present the finished product.
7. Additional creative genres are possible including expressive dance, chant, artistic storyboard displays, or computer-generated media to name a few.

#### **Evaluation:**

Students will design and create a written story and visual representation of their constellation of choice. A rubric is attached and should be given to students prior to the STARLAB visit.

#### **Extension:**

Students could research traditional myths relating to the constellations. They should search out information relating to the culture of the original storyteller of the myth. Students could analyze the relationship between the mythology and the life of the story’s creator.

# Starry Night

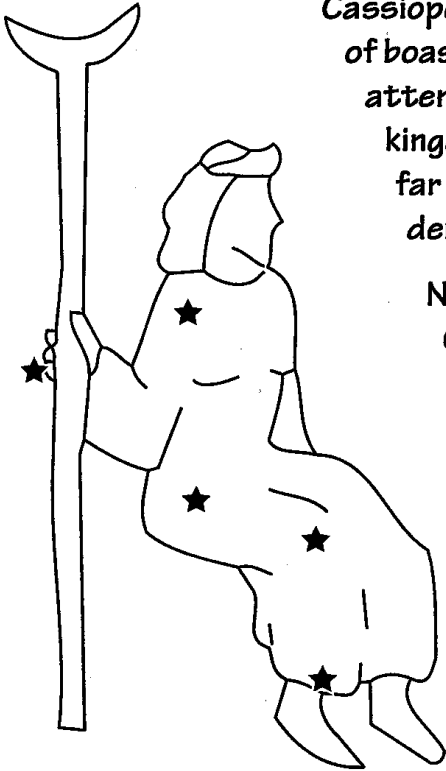
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	4. Distinguished	3. Proficient	2. Apprentice	1. Novice
<b>Writing-Conventions:</b> Correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage	No spelling, grammar, capitalization or punctuation errors. Sentences are all well-formed.	Fewer than 5 spelling and grammar errors. Fewer than 5 capitalization and punctuation errors. One or two flawed sentences.	More than 5 spelling and grammar errors. More than 5 capitalization and punctuation errors. Less than 5 sentences show flawed structure.	More than 10 spelling and grammar errors. More than 10 capitalization and punctuation errors. Many sentences show flawed structure.
<b>Content-Creativity:</b> Unique delivery	Story demonstrated student's own interpretation and expression of constellation.	Story included student-created ideas as well as existing ideas from legend or mythology.	Story related previously existed although it contained minimal student creativity.	Story was repeated from existing mythology.
<b>Planning-Rough Draft:</b> Draft of the final document	Rough draft was completed in a timely manner and included all necessary information. Rough draft was written neatly. Student used feedback from editing process to make final project better.	Rough draft was completed in a timely manner and included most of the necessary information. Rough draft was written neatly. Student worked on their own and with peers during the editing process.	Rough draft included some necessary information. Rough draft was completed on time. Rough draft was legible. Student worked with peers during the editing process.	Rough draft was incomplete and was not finished on time. Rough draft was difficult to read. Student did not participate in the editing process.
<b>Writing-Ideas:</b> Interesting, well-developed story	All ideas were presented with many details in a clear, unique manner, and related a well-developed story.	Most ideas were presented with several details in a clear, unique manner, and related a well-developed story.	Writing had three or more details that supported the story.	Writing had few details and did not develop the story.
<b>Design-Overview:</b> Visual of observed constellation	Creatively designed and produced a neat, clear representation of the constellation.	Designed and produced a neat, clear representation of the constellation.	Neat visual of constellation was turned in.	Visual was omitted or lacked clarity.

MyT4L Rubric

<http://www.tech4learning.com/>

## **The Story of Cassiopeia, the Queen**



Cassiopeia was a beautiful woman who was fond of boasting about her beauty. The maidens who attended King Neptune in his underwater kingdom learned that she boasted of being far more beautiful than any of them. They demanded Neptune punish her.

Neptune sent a monster sea serpent, Cetus, to terrify all who lived along the coast of the country ruled by King Cepheus and Queen Cassiopeia. The Serpent snatched women and children whom he found on the shore. Troubled by this problem in his kingdom, King Cepheus went to an oracle to find out how he could rid his kingdom of this horrible monster. The oracle's answer was that only if he sacrificed his

daughter, Andromeda, to the serpent would the maidens feel they had been avenged for the way Cassiopeia had insulted them and ask Neptune to recall the serpent.

Cassiopeia was placed in the heavens to be punished rather than honored. She swings every half night around the North Star. She is upside down in the chair in which she is seated, hanging on for dear life in a position most humiliating for a queen of old who was so proud of her beauty.