

Modern Mythology:

In the Percy Jackson series that we will be reading, author Rick Riordan puts a modern twist on ancient Greek gods and goddesses. The sea god Poseidon wears flip-flops and a Hawaiian shirt. Ares drives a motorcycle for his war chariot. The human characteristics of each 'immortal' is exaggerated and given a current relevant meaning.

In class, you were divided into groups and assigned three Olympians. With your group, discuss the key characteristics of each Olympian, and brainstorm possible modern counterparts to them. Any figure from literature, popular culture, media or music is acceptable for the purposes of this assignment.

Assignment: For each Olympian assigned to you, write a paragraph comparing and contrasting them with one of the modern figures you brainstormed.

Example: Athena is the goddess of wisdom, and prides herself (to a fault) on her ability to rely on cleverness and book learning. One possible counterpart to this is Hermione Granger of the Harry Potter series. This character has a similar love of and talent for cleverness and learned intelligence. One difference between the two characters is their animal of choice. Athena's animal is the Owl, but even though there are owls in the Harry Potter books, Hermione's choice of animal is a cat, which is most closely associated with Dionysus, the god of wine, who has a tiger as one of his animals. This may suggest that Hermione, who is often presented as more uptight and focused than her peers, secretly desires to spend more time having fun.