

## Myth #9 Adonis and Aphrodite

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**READ CLOSELY AND SHOW EVIDENCE OF THINKING BY ANNOTATING. Annotate all readings by highlighting the main idea in yellow; the best evidence supporting in blue, and any interesting phrases in green.**

### Adonis and Aphrodite

#### Aphrodite, the Hunter

For two-thirds of the year, Adonis and Aphrodite were all but inseparable. Aphrodite was so smitten with this handsome mortal that she started neglecting not only Olympus and the heavens but also the care for her own sweet beauty. She became Adonis' constant companion, roaming through the woods with him and cheering the hounds, her skirt kilted up to her knees in the manner of Artemis. However, as much as she learned to enjoy hunting harmless animals such as the hare or the deer, she kept away from the fierce wild beasts. "Dear boy," she constantly advised her lover, "do not be rash, do not attack the wild beasts which are armed by nature, lest your glory may cost me great sorrow. Neither youth nor beauty nor the deeds which have moved Aphrodite have effect on lions, bristling boars, and on the eyes and tempers of wild beasts. Boars have the force of lightning in their curved tusks, and the rage of tawny lions is unlimited. I fear and hate them all."

#### The Wild Boar

Unfortunately, Adonis didn't take Aphrodite's advice seriously. And one day, after his dogs had aroused a wild boar from its hiding place, Adonis pierced it with his spear. However, the boar countered fiercely: it raced after Adonis and sank its deadly tusk in the youth's groin, stretching him dying on the yellow sand beneath his feet. Now, some say that, in order not to scare him, Aphrodite omitted one crucial detail while warning Adonis: namely, that her lover Ares could transform himself into wild beasts. Consequently, some authors believe that it was Ares who actually killed Adonis. Others claim that the wild boar was, in fact, sent by Artemis, avenging the death of Hippolytus. Yet a third group believes that there was no warning at all: Adonis simply refused to go back to the Underworld one year, and Persephone sent a wild boar to take him there for good.

#### The Red Rose and the Anemone

Aphrodite heard Adonis' groans and rushed to her lover; but, unfortunately, she arrived just a tad too late. While running, she pricked her foot on a white rose and stained the flower with her blood; the rose turned red. It is said that this was the first red rose ever to appear on the earth; it stands for passionate love ever since then. The other flower associated with this story has somewhat darker symbolism. After blaming the merciless Fate for taking Adonis away from her, Aphrodite sprinkled the blood of Adonis with sweet-smelling nectar, and the former suddenly began to sparkle, "just as transparent bubbles always rise in rainy weather." In less than an hour, a flower sprang up: it was dark red, the very color of Adonis' blood. Named anemone (meaning: "windflower"), it is said that this flower symbolizes Aphrodite's everlasting grief for Adonis, for just like him, it is beautiful, slender, and short-lived.

**WRITE A REFLECTION (3 paragraphs-5 sentences each)-This needs to be submitted through google classroom.**

**One paragraph that reflects on what the writer said**

- **Here's where you summarize the main points of the story**

**One paragraph that reflects on the writer's style**

- **How does the author use rhetorical devices (similes, metaphors, symbols etc.)**
- **What is the theme/author's message**

**One paragraph that reflects the reader's thoughts on the content of the Story**

- **Here's where you can discuss your reaction to the story, did it speak to you? Did you like it, why or why not?**