

Exemplary

Myth Final Draft: "The Battle Of The Gods"

Long ago, in the land of Ancient Greece, a dispute was occurring between two gods, who were sitting upon their royal thrones in the Castle Of Olympus. The two immortal rulers involved in the argument happened to be Hades (God Of Death), and Zeus (King Of The Gods and God Of Lightning).

"I am so sick and tired of you Zeus," Hades complained. "You sit on your throne, looking all high and mighty, shooting your stupid little thunderbolts at people---"

"They are titled *lightning* bolts, dear brother," Zeus corrected.

"Never mind the name! And don't interrupt me again!" Hades retorted, rather exasperated. "My point *is* that everyday, more and more people are dying from your silly little attacks, and that just leaves *me* with more and more dead people to deal with! If you haven't noticed, I am The God Of DEATH. I am so sick and tired of assessing people for the cause of their decease just to get a reply as absurd as 'a lightning bolt fell out of the sky and hit me.'"

Zeus broke out into a booming fit of laughter that echoed off the marble castle walls, wiping tears from his eyes.

"It's not funny!" Hades exclaimed. "I should get more work because *you* want a pastime?! This will NOT stand. Maybe a short break from your little games, hmmm? A decade? A century?"

"You amuse me, brother," Zeus replied. "Lightning is my power, my nature. How can I just cease to be who I am? It's impossible, and it will never happen."

"Well, don't expect me to put up with 'your nature', *brother*," Hades mockingly replied. "One of these days, you will learn the consequences of your actions. You will see."

And with that, Hades stormed off his throne and out of the castle.

Later that evening, Hades performed a ritual, calling spirits from the dead. Using the spirits of various warriors who died in battle to help *him*, he planned to overthrow Zeus from the title of 'King Of The Gods' and claim the Kingdom Of Olympus as his own.

"Oh, he will see... he will see..." Hades kept mumbling to himself as he worked at his summoning of spirits. Letting out a dark chuckle, he continued on with his work.

Little did he know that Hermes, the Messenger God, was watching him plan his elaborate scheme. Absolutely horrified, Hermes used his wings to fly into the clouds, get to Zeus, and tell him of Hades' plot of destruction.

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Zeus soon learned of Hades' treacherous arrangement and called the other gods (Poseidon - God Of The Oceans; Hestia - Goddess Of The Sacred Fire; Hera - Queen Of The Gods and Goddess Of Marriage; Ares - God Of War; Athena - Goddess Of Wisdom, Foresight, and Craft; Apollo - God Of Prophecy, Music, Healing, and The Sun; Aphrodite - Goddess Of Love; Demeter - Goddess Of The Harvest, Agriculture, and Fruit; and Hephaestus - God Of The Blacksmith's Fire) to a council.

"For the sake of Olympus, we all must fight," Zeus announced. "We cannot let Hades overthrow the kingdom. Together, we will win this battle... once and for all."

And off to fight they went.

Meanwhile, Hades, in preparation for battle, rose up from the Earth a mountain from which spewed the fiery depths of The Earth. He would use this weapon to fight the gods... and at last conquer for all eternity.

Or so he thought.

Just as the arising of his mountain was complete, Hades noticed vague silhouettes approaching him on the horizon.

"Oh, here they come! I can't wait!" Hades giggled. "Success is so close I can taste it!"

Suddenly, the gods accelerated their speed and arrived in front of Hades in a split second.

"Don't count on it, brother," Zeus growled. "You're going down."

"Bring it on," Hades smirked.

And, at last, the battle began.

Chaos ensued among the Kingdom Of Olympus. Everywhere spirits attacked the gods with spears and arrows, while the gods used their own powers to fight off the spirits. Ares used blood to blind Hades' warriors. Athena used foresight to anticipate the spirits' next moves and she struck at them accordingly. Apollo played deafening, high-pitched music in order to disable multiple rivals' senses and concurrently blinded them with the Sun. Aphrodite used heart arrows to make the spirits fall in love with each other. Demeter grew vines from the Earth to trip foes and entangle adversaries. Hephaestus used charmed swords to slice spirits to dust. Hermes flew above the grounds and commanded gods to strike when a spirit tried to catch a god by surprise. And Zeus shocked the spirits with his lightning bolts.

Eventually, only Hades, the mountain, and the gods remained.

"Looks like your precious warriors couldn't hold up," Zeus commented.

"And you won't either, not after this mountain drowns all of you in its power," Hades taunted. "Once that happens, I will rule Olympus once and for all."

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"Over my dead body."

"Oh, I certainly hope so."

With a roar of rage, Hades thrust out his arms, and out spewed the lava, fire, and smoke from the mountain. The gods all cowered in fear, running from the heat and flames that would surely destroy Olympus forever. Only Poseidon remained facing Hades.

"Run, brother," Hades commanded. "Like all the other cowards you call gods."

"No, Hades," Poseidon calmly replied, a cool smile on his face. "You will not win this time."

"What are you up to?!" Hades angrily interrogated.

But Poseidon need not explain, as in that moment, a tsunami came roaring in with enormous, deafening intensity and speed, washing the fire and lava from the mountain away and drowning Hades himself.

Subsequently, Zeus threw a lightning bolt to Earth, leaving a wide opening in the ground.

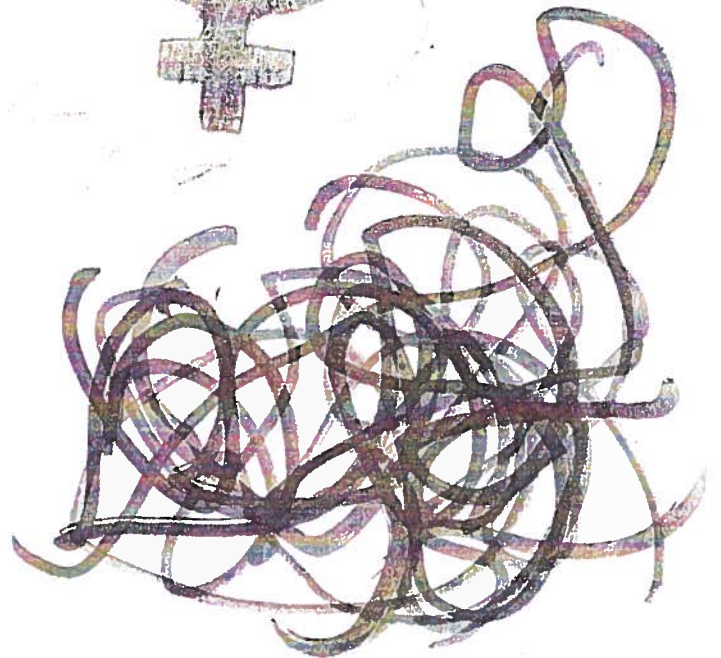
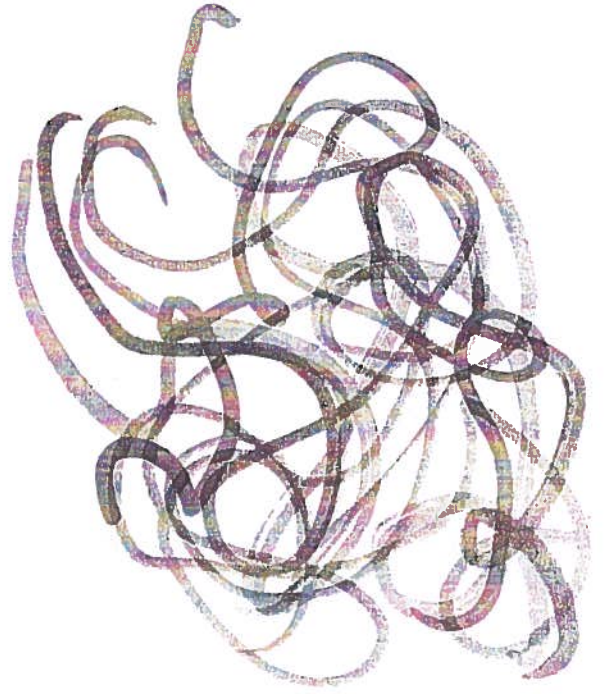
"I AM BANISHING YOU FROM OLYMPUS FOR THE TREACHERIES YOU HAVE COMMITTED." Zeus boomed. **"FROM THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE EARTH IS WHERE YOU WILL DWELL, AS THIS IS THE PLACE FROM WHERE YOUR MALEVOLENT VOLCANO AROSE. YOU WILL CALL THIS PLACE 'THE UNDERWORLD'. YOU CAN KEEP YOUR SPIRITS HERE, AND THIS WILL BE YOUR KINGDOM. NO LONGER WILL YOU BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE THRONES OF OLYMPUS. NO LONGER WILL YOU BE ONE OF US. BANISHED FOREVER, THAT IS YOUR FATE. GOODBYE, MY BROTHER. FOREVER."**

With that, Hades sank, along with all his fallen spirits, into the fiery depths of the Underworld.

And never again was there a war between the gods.

There is still evidence of the Battle Of The Gods today. Every time a volcano (which, as you may have noticed, happened to be the mountain Hades arose from the Earth) erupts, you know that in the Underworld, something horrible has happened. Because every time Hades is enraged, the fire and lava of his fury escapes to Earth as a reminder to the gods what a horrible war they fought with him, and the reason why he was banished to the Underworld in the first place.

Exemplary



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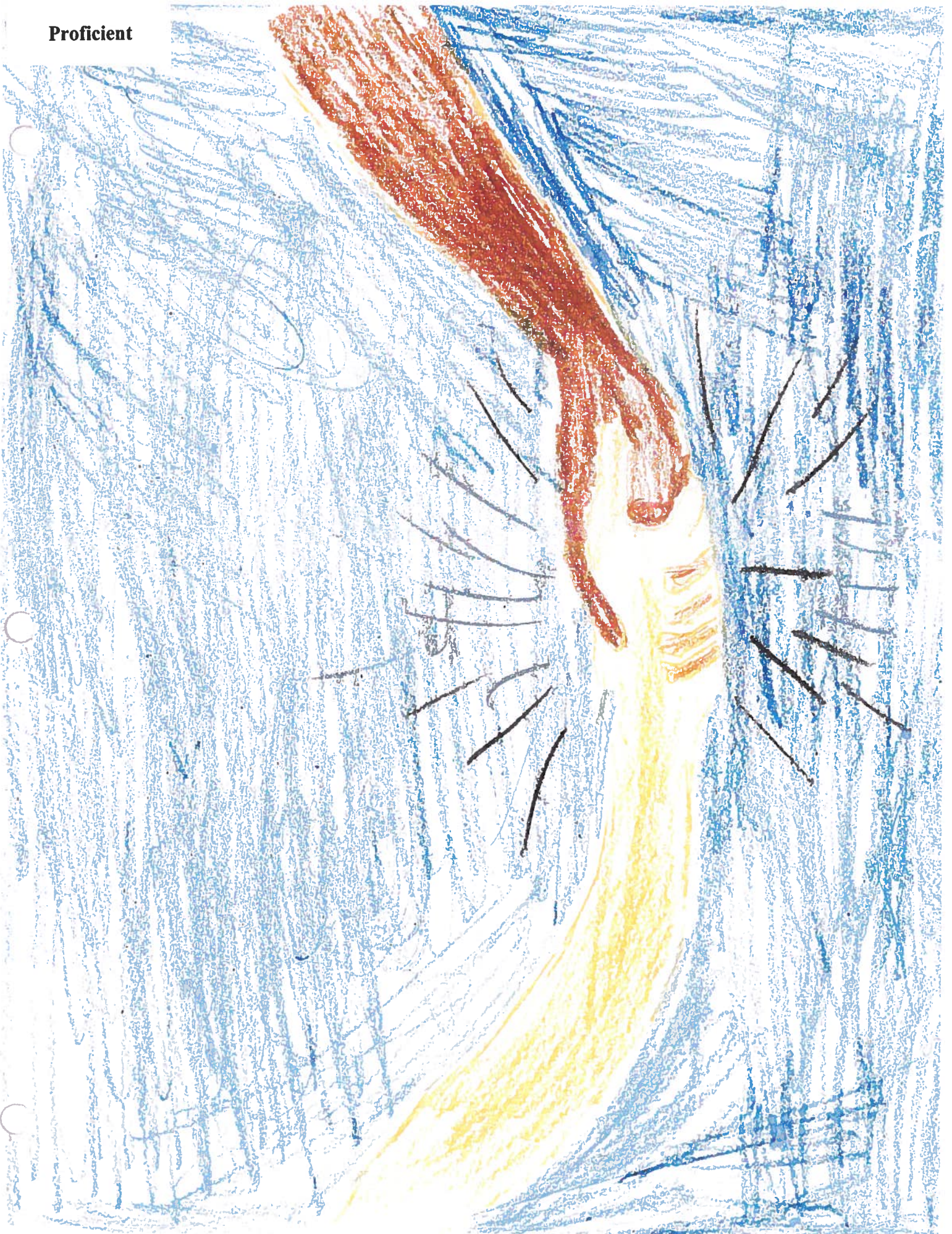


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When the world was still young, competition was older yet. Two competitive classmates, Phaethon and Bruno, were arguing one day about who was going to do better on an upcoming vocabulary test. Bruno had brown hair and dark eyes, which he inherited from his father, Bollo, the moon god Phaethon, a blond headed kid with light frosty blue eyes, looked like his father, the sun god Apollo. Soon Bruno and Phaethon were fed up with each other's arguments. They decided to make a bet on who was going to get 100% on the vocabulary test. The winner had to conjure up a punishment for the loser. Bruno and Phaethon both spent all day and all night studying for the test. The day of the test finally came and they sat at their desks anxious to start, running through each and every word in their head. The teacher passed out the test and as soon as the test touched the desk, the two boys snatched it and started. The class was dead silent. You could nearly hear a pin drop. Everyone was working on their test hoping to get 100%. After the bell rang, they had to wait five mind boggling days to get their tests back. Bruno received 100% on the test and Phaethon missed one point on a spelling error.

Since Phaethon was declared the loser of the bet, Bruno needed to think of an appropriate punishment, but to no avail. Bruno asked his father for advice. Bollo said he could not think of an adequate punishment, but he knew someone who could advise them – Zeus. Bruno and Phaethon decided to go to the great temple of Zeus on Mount Olympus to ask Zeus what to do. Phaethon asked his father if, when he was riding his chariot across the sky, he could drop them off on Mount Olympus. At the break of dawn, they got on the blazing sun chariot and flew across the sky with the fiery breath of the horses lighting the way. When they were at Mount Olympus, Apollo swooped down and dropped them off. Phaethon and Bruno passed

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through the golden doors of Zeus's temple. They talked to Zeus about their situation – their argument, their bet and Bruno's struggle to come up with an appropriate punishment. Zeus, a gigantic bearded muscle man, was not pleased that they had bet each other. Zeus told the boys that he thought they were selfish. However, Zeus agreed to help the boys with the punishment. After talking to the other gods, Zeus exclaimed to Phaethon,

"You are banished from your cottage and may never come back!"

Phaethon was so shocked his jaw almost hit the ground, a worse punishment was yet to unfold

"Also, your father's sun chariot has to be blocked out by Bollo's moon chariot for one day every year." Zeus added.

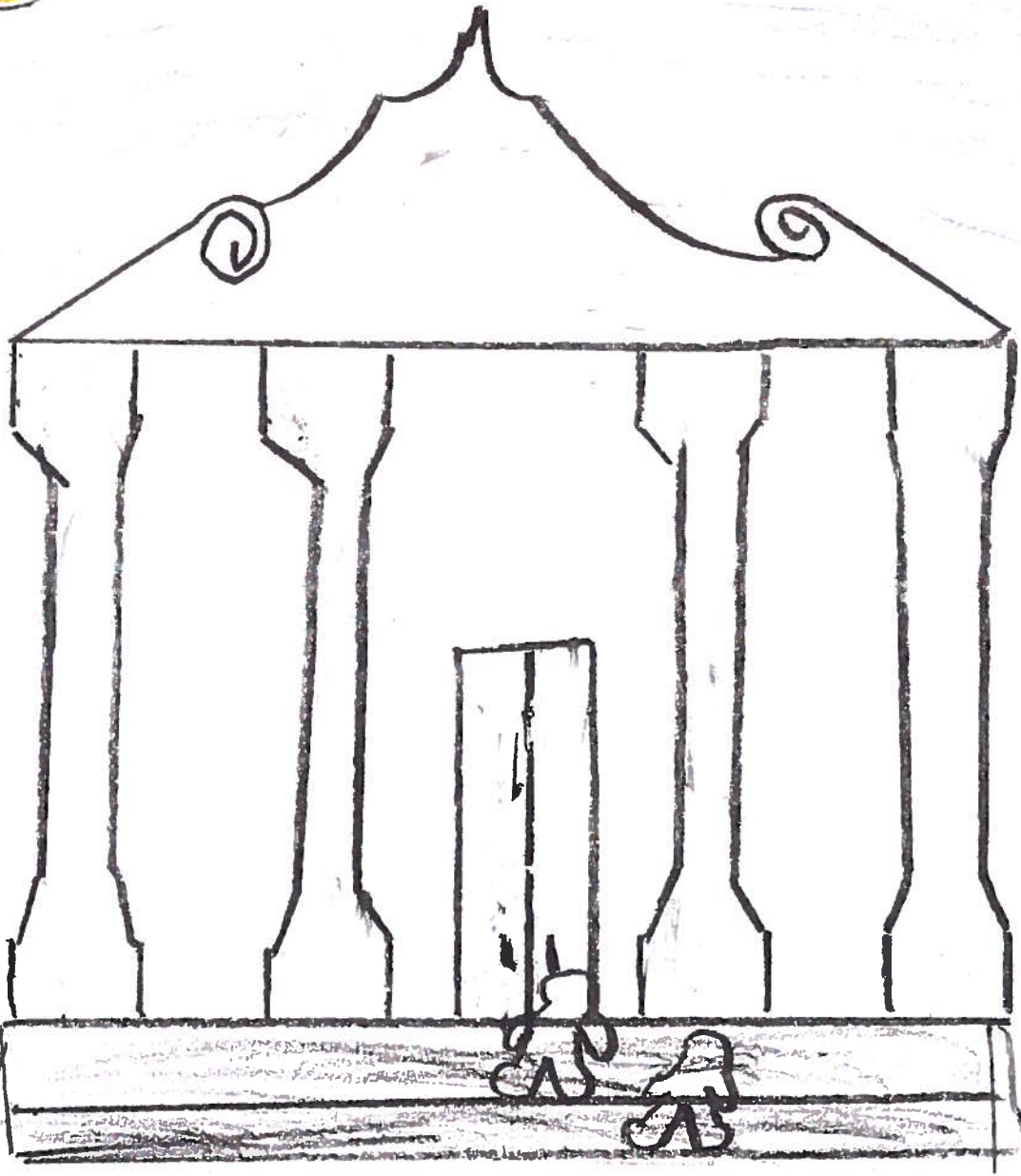
The trek home from Mt. Olympus was anxiety ridden because he knew his father would be furious with him. Every step Phaethon took gave him a new idea on how to avoid telling his father about the betting incident. Finally, Phaethon reached his cottage. As he walked in the front door his father said,

"How was school today and your visit to Mt. Olympus?"

"Oh, just the normal pish posh. I never knew how many gods lived up there on the mountain," said Phaethon

"Oh, yeah most of my friends live there so they can watch the humans tend their crops, and cook, and argue." said Apollo.

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"why did you go up there in the first place?" asked Apollo.

"Well I...I.. kinda ga...gam...gambled with Bruno and-."

"You did what!?!? Phaethon you gambled!," shrieked Apollo.

"Yeah" murmured Phaethon ashamed.

"Well did you win or lose the bet?"

"I lost," whispered Phaethon.

"You, lost, now what!?!? Yelled Apollo.

"Sorry father, Zeus gave out this terrible punishment and it cannot be altered," said Phaethon in a trembling voice.

"Now your sun chariot shall be blocked by the moon chariot driven by the moon god Bollo." announced Phaethon.

"What! This can't happen! My rays of sun must reach the farms or the corps will die!" gasped Apollo

"Son, I cannot have you interfere with humanity anymore. You are banished from this household until death" boomed Apollo,

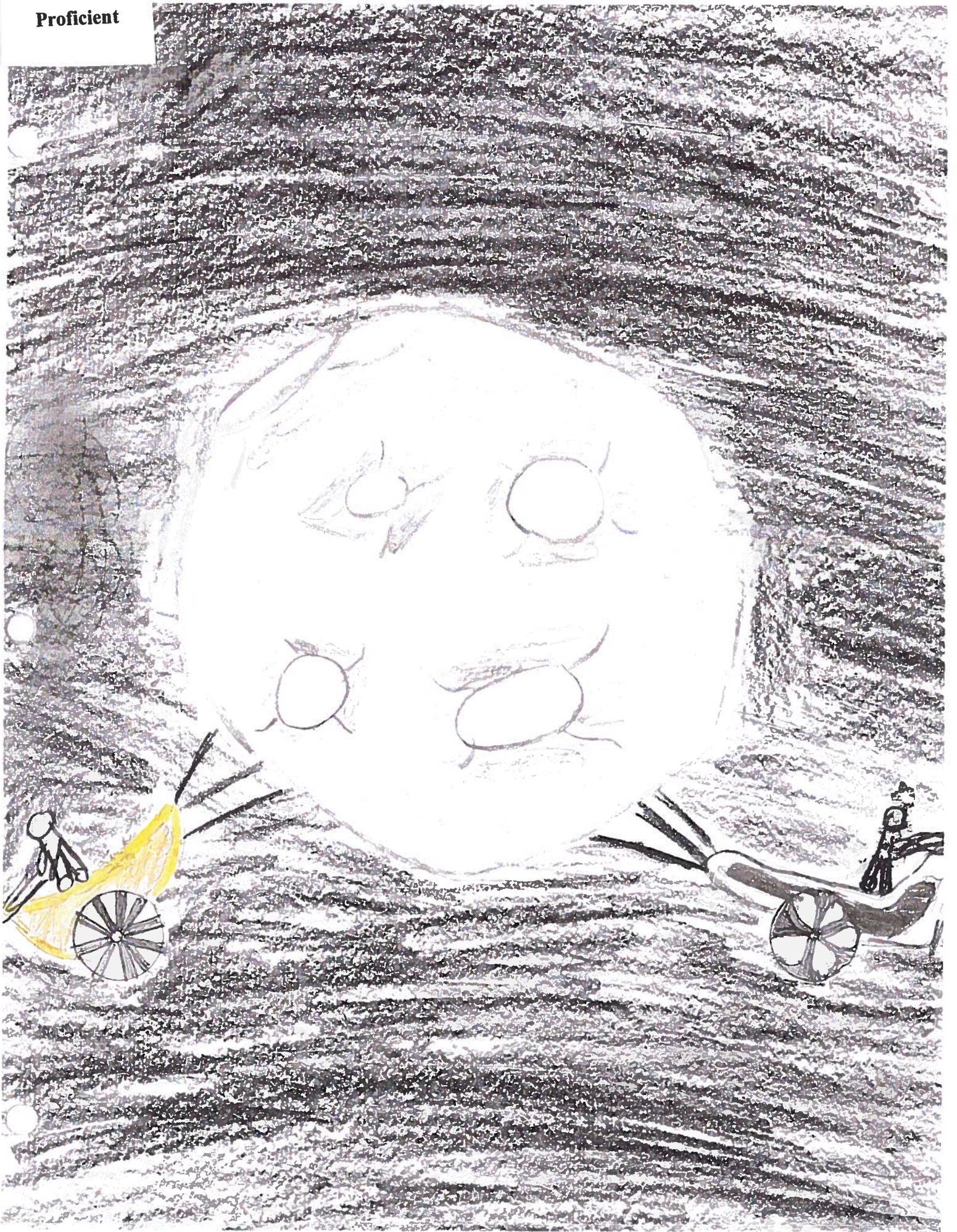
"But fath-"

"No leave now!" Demanded Apollo

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Sobbing, Phaethon ran to his room, grabbed the nearest blanket, wrapped up some food from the kitchen and ran out the door never to be seen or heard from again. This is why one day every year the sun is blocked out by moon and the world is engulfed in darkness for a couple minutes.

Proficient



Why Does Snow Only Fall On Cold Places?

Once upon a time Maro Margetii was living all alone on the moon. He was doing what he had usually done, watching the Earth below. When an unexpected visitor showed up. He was carrying a thunderbolt. "Oh my goodness, it's Zeus! The king of all gods!" shouted Maro.

"Yes, you old hag it is Zeus!" He said.

"What are you doing here?" remarked Maro?

"I am the new ruler of the moon!" screamed Zeus.

"No, you're not!" Chuckled Maro.

"Yes, I am I have come from Mt. Olympus, I heard that no one lived on the moon!" cried Zeus.

"You have heard wrong, I have lived here my whole life!" mumbled Maro.

"Well, your time is done living here I am going to become the new king of the moon!" boasted Zeus.

"You can't just come over here and take my home I have lived here forever!" Responded Maro.

"LEAVE NOW OR I. SHALL FIGHT YOU FOR THE MOON!" snapped Zeus.

"No, I am not just going to leave because you are a greedy man! I have lived here my whole life and I don't plan on leaving anytime soon."

Stormed Maro. Zeus was even greedier than Maro thought, so he threw a thunderbolt at the side of the moon and it burnt off!

“Maro couldn’t believe his eyes! My home!” He shrieked.

“That’s right!” said Zeus

But all of a sudden pieces of ice started to fall on to Earth, Maro began to laugh and Zeus began to cry. The pieces of ice fell on mountains all around the world. People didn’t know what this was. Zeus knew he had made a big mess and he had to cover it up somehow. He decided to change direction of the ice pieces and make them fall on colder places during winter. When the weather god found out about this knew phenomena he was very surprised and very pleased with Zeus. People all around were in love with the new “mysterious white stuff” they played in it and found it was cold and they needed to dress warm from head to toe. Little kids came up with sledding! They took large leaves and flew down the cold white hills.

“Goodness” Maro yelled! “This was my home long before Zeus got here and he just comes and makes snow and gets all the credit! It’s simply not fair! Zeus being the king, of all gods of course heard Maro’s remark.

“Dear, dear, little Maro, this may have been your home but I am a king and I made everyone happy with the snow” Zeus bragged.

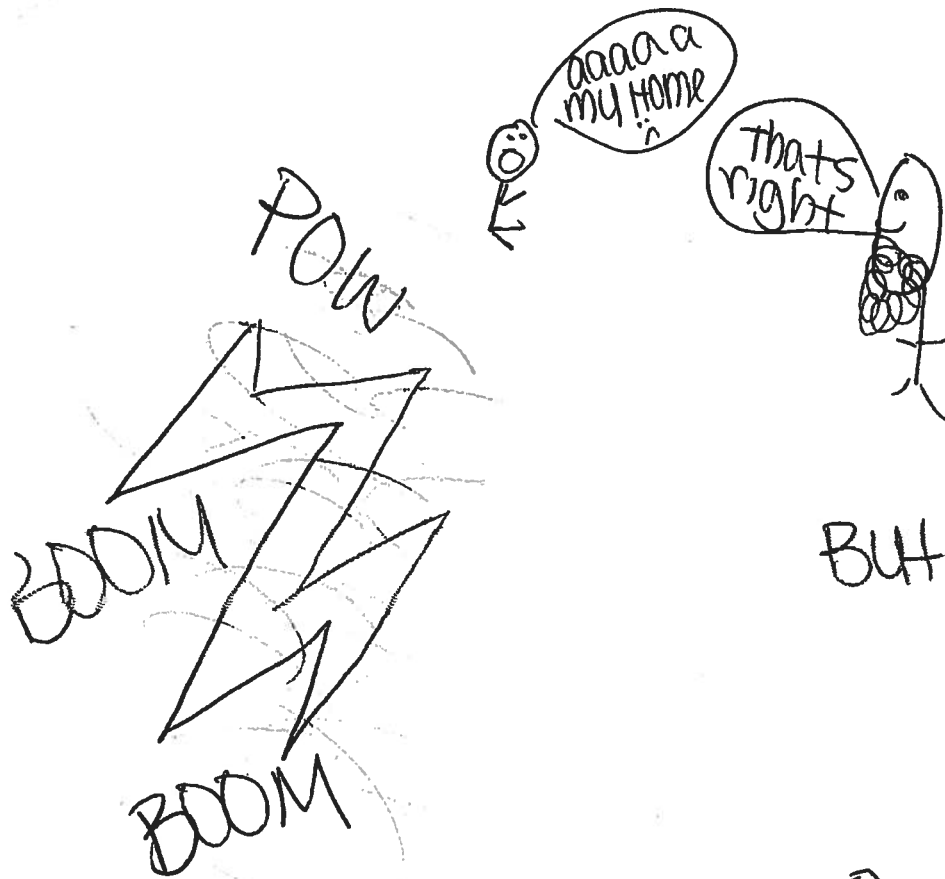
"Well, said Maro now let's put this into perspective you may have made people happy but you ruined my life by wrecking my home! How would you like that if someone ruined your home?' Maro said.

"I actually wouldn't care" Answered Zeus

"Sure you wouldn't" Commented Maro "you are such a greedy man who must have everything HIS way"

"Greedy? No! You have it all wrong I am a ruler, a king! I am looked up to" Zeus grunted

Maro decided to end that conversation by simply saying "all right you are not greedy." But Inside he knew that Zeus was. Snow was not loved by Maro (considering what had happened) but, he learned to live with it. Zeus however became an old lonely man. His "snow fame" ended quickly for since it only came in cold weather, people forgot it and its creator over the year. Played with it that following winter and forgot it again. This story was told to kids all around the world, greed is an awful thing, though you may get your five minutes of fame it never really pays off.



BUT.....

- ↳ ICE started to fall! ZEUS
- ↳ cried! MARO
- ↳ laughed!!!

Emerging



goes w/ page 2

ELA Level 2, Unit 1

Embedded Assessment 2: Creating an Illustrated Myth

Exemplary: *The Battle of the Gods*

This illustrated myth is characterized by the skillful use of narrative elements, especially dialogue that moves the action of the plot and establishes characterization. Key attributes of the main characters, the easy anger of Hades and the dismissive arrogance of Zeus, are used to enhance the conflict. The plotting skillfully creates rising action to a surprising climax. In addition, the writer uses suspense and foreshadowing to engage and guide the reader. The explanation of the natural phenomenon and the lesson learned arise cleverly out of the conflict providing a satisfying resolution to the conflict. The language use is exceptional, containing vivid, active verbs as well as descriptive explanations of the talents of the gods in battle. The writer has an engaging command of language and conventions which enable him to convey his story with artistry. The illustrations are vivid and contain symbolism which works well to enhance the plot. The lack of errors, and complex plotting, and powerful use of dialogue are evidence of prewriting and revision. This myth exemplifies the sophisticated use of narrative elements in an engaging, suspenseful and complex way.

Proficient: *Untitled*

This proficient exemplar contains an engaging conflict in a setting that reveals the competitiveness as well as the immaturity of the main characters. The bet proves to be a clever hook to engage the reader in the main action of the story which begins with the trip to Zeus' castle. All the components of effective plotting are present. The story contains a nice balance of dialogue and narration; some dialogue does not help move the plot forward. More attention to revising dialogue for diction would make the voice more consistent and fitting for the characters. The myth explains a phenomenon (the eclipse of the sun) and conveys a harsh moral about youthful gambling, but these elements do not seem integral to the action of the plot. The resolution seems abrupt. Vivid use of language enhances the narrative effect of suspense (the trek home...was anxiety ridden because he knew his father would be furious.). Illustrations complement the story by emphasizing the mood and setting. Spelling and capitalization errors are minor and may more accurately be seen as typographical errors that could have benefitted from more careful proofreading. A title would have enhanced the myth.

Emerging: *Why Does Snow Fall Only on Cold Places*

This emerging exemplar of an illustrated myth is characterized by a basic understanding of the assignment. The myth contains some narrative elements and emulates the idea of a myth by trying to explain the occurrence of ice and snow in winter. Maro's character is undeveloped and not linked with any real action. Zeus is said to be greedy, but that trait is not developed significantly. In addition, key elements of the plot are not fully developed (e.g., rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) and are primarily developed by telling not showing. The story contains uses Zeus' thunderbolt as part of the rising action, moving toward the explanation of ice and snow, but there is only a minimal sense of falling action and the resolution seems forced, as does the climax. The moral is barely attached to the conflict that poses Zeus as a greedy god, ending as a "lonely man" who gets only "five minutes of fame," falling into cliché at the end. Illustrations accompany the story, but only minimally connect with the ideas or the emotional impact of the actions of the story. Although present, the dialogue does not move the action forward and is marred by incorrect punctuation and indiscriminate use of exclamation points throughout. The inappropriate, though creative, use of dialogue tags ("mumbled" with an exclamation point!) suggests the writing went through a conscious, if indiscriminate, attempt to revise to vary verbs

in the dialogue tags. The inappropriate use of these elements detracts from the tone and purpose of the story.