Ms. Kane October-November 2018

Ms. Kane-All Periods Hercules Notes

**Hercules**

**Hercules’ Birth**

* Zeus saw a beautiful woman, Alcmena
  + He wanted her
* Alcmena was married to Amphitrion
  + He went away
* Zeus pretended to be Amphitrion and slept with Alcmena
  + She gets pregnant with Hercules
* Amphitrion returns, sleeps with his wife
  + She gets pregnant with his son at same time
* Zeus is a proud father-to-be
  + On the day Hercules is born, Zeus prophesied that the first child born that day will rule over others
  + This angers Hera, his wife
* Hera sends the goddess of childbirth to delay Hercules’ birth
  + As a result, Hercules’ cousin, Eurystheus is born first
    - He later becomes King
* Alcmena gives birth to Hercules and his half-twin, Iphicles

**Hercules’ Childhood**

* Hera sends 2 snakes to kill Hercules in his crib
  + He strangles them
* Hercules has superhuman strength
  + He accidentally kills his Greek tutor, Linus

**Hercules’ First Wife**

* Hercules grows up and marries
* Wife=Megara
* They have 2 kids
* Hera causes Hercules to go into a fit of madness
  + he accidentally kills his family
* He goes to Oracle at Delphi to seek advice
  + He is told to go to his cousin, Eurystheus to complete 12 labors
* Eurystheus gives him 12 impossible tasks

**Twelve Labors of Hercules**

* 1. Nemean Lion
  + has impenetrable skin
  + Hercules strangles it to death
  + uses its claws to skin it
  + wears the skin from then on
* 2. The Hydra
  + Monster with 9 heads
  + One head=immortal
  + Heads multiply when cut off
  + Hydra’s best friend=giant crab
  + Hercules’ nephew Iolaus helps him by burning the stumps after Hercules cuts off the heads
    - they can’t grow back then
  + Hercules buries the immortal head
* 3. Golden Hind
  + sacred to Artemis-couldn’t be harmed
  + Hercules chases for a year-finally catches it
* 4. Erymanthian Boar
  + Hercules traps it in a snowbank
  + Takes it to Eurystheus alive
  + Eurystheus is frightened-hides in a jar
* 5. Augean Stables
  + King Augeus had thousands of cattle
  + stables had never been cleaned
  + Hercules must clean in 1 day
  + Diverted 2 rivers to do so
* 6. Stymphalian Birds
  + feasted on human flesh
  + used bronze noisemakers to scare birds
  + shot them as they flew away
* 7. Cretan Bull
  + Belonged to King Minos of Crete
    - Father of Minotaur
  + Hercules wrestled bull and drove it back to Eurystheus
  + Eurystheus let it escape
* 8. Mares of Diomedes
  + Man-eating horses
  + Hercules fed Diomedes to them
  + Drove them back to Eurystheus
  + Eurystheus set them free
* 9. The Girdle of Hippolyta
  + Hippolyta: Queen of Amazons
  + Amazons: single-breasted warrior women
  + Hippolyta agreed to give Hercules her girdle (belt)
  + Hera convinced Amazons that Hercules was attacking their queen
  + Hercules killed Hippolyta when attacked
* 10. Cattle of Geryon
  + Geryon-monster with 3 heads, 3 sets of legs
  + Cattle guarded by Orthus, 2-headed dog
  + Hercules kills Orthus with club
  + Shoots Geryon with arrow
  + Eurystheus sacrifices cattle to Hera
* 11. Apples of the Hesperides
  + Golden apples given to Hera as wedding gift
  + Entrusted to Hesperides (daughters of Atlas)
  + Kept in a garden and guarded by Ladon (100-headed dragon)
  + Garden’s location unknown
  + Hercules wrestles sea god Nereus for directions
  + Rescues Prometheus who tells him to ask Atlas for help
  + Atlas agrees to get the apples if Hercules will hold the world for him
  + Atlas gets apples, refuses to take world back
  + Hercules tricks him into taking it back by saying he only needed Atlas to take the world for a second so Hercules could adjust it to more comfortable position
* 12. Capture Cerberus
  + Cerberus: 3-headed dog guarding Underworld
  + Hercules chokes him into submission (dog was fine)
  + Takes Cerberus to Eurystheus
  + Returns Cerberus to Underworld

**After the Labors**

* Hercules is now free of blood guilt
* Remarries: Deianira
* She is attacked by Nessus, a Centaur
* Hercules shoots Nessus with an arrow
* Dying Nessus tells Deianira that his blood could be used as a love potion
* She smears Nessus’ blood on a cloak that she gives to Hercules

**Hercules’ Death**

* Deinara gives Hercules blood-smeared cloak
* The blood is poison and puts Hercules in great agony
* He asks his friend Philoctetes to burn him alive to put him out of his misery
* After his death, Hercules is made a God
* Hera no longer hates him
* He marries Hera’s daughter, Hebe

**12 Labors Recap**

1. Nemean Lion
2. Hydra
3. Golden Hind
4. Erymanthian Boar
5. Augean Stables
6. Stymphalian Birds
7. Cretan Bull
8. Mares of Diomedes
9. Girdle of Hippolyta
10. Cattle of Geryon
11. Apples of Hesperides
12. Capture Cerberus