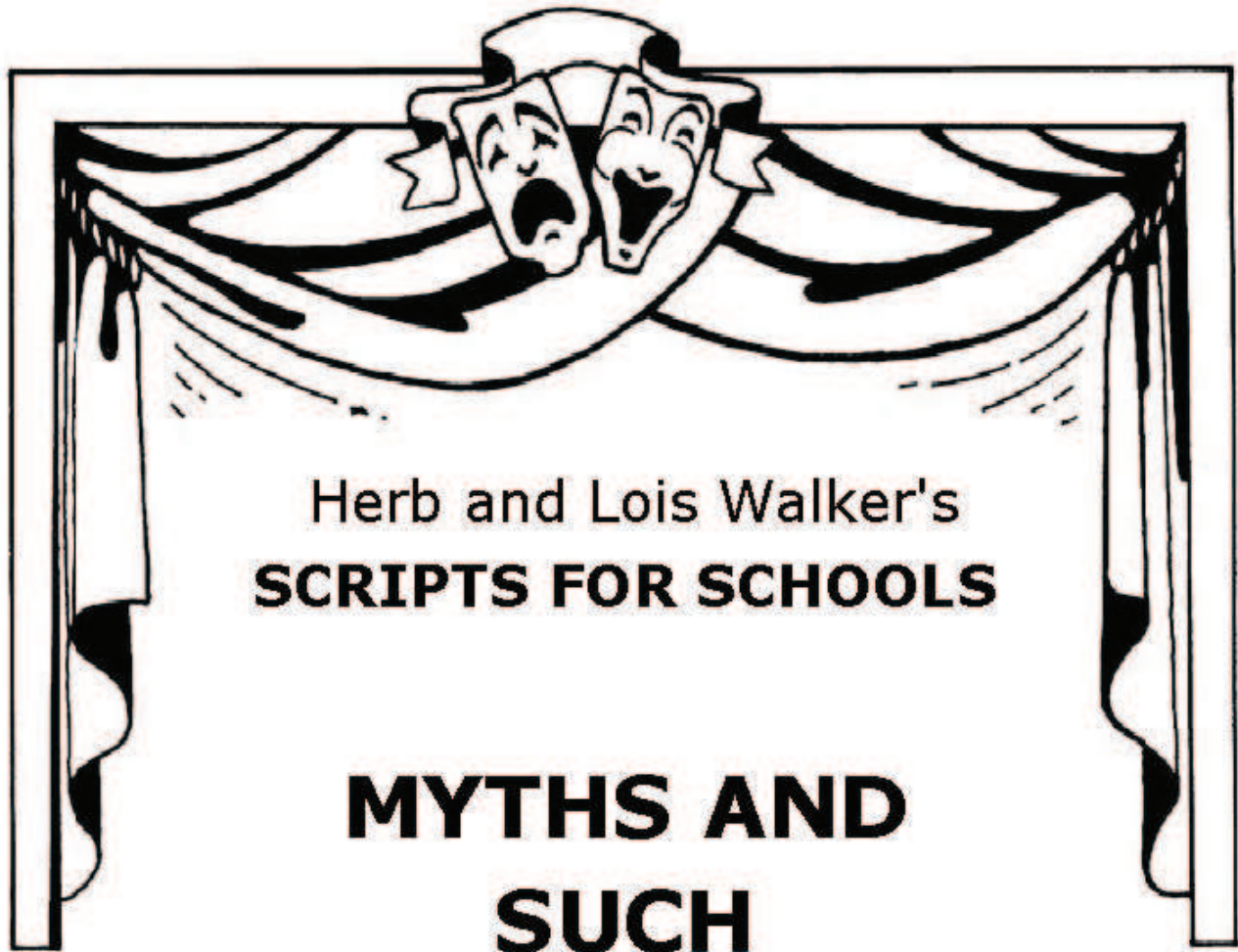


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A Brief Introduction and Overview
PACKAGE ONE



A 30 Minute Performance
Package Featuring Skits
Based on Greek Myths
PACKAGE ONE

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MYTHS AND SUCH
PACKAGE ONE
A BRIEF INTRODUCTION
by Lee Karvonen

This collection of short skits intends to retell well-known Greek myths in a humorous and often different way. Some skits use the original characters, while others use modern storytellers trying to relate these myths to modern audiences.

There are two sets of collections: Myths and Such, Package One (with 6 skits) and Myths and Such, Package Two (with 4 skits). Each package can be performed alone, if desired. Running time for each package is approximately 35 minutes. Should you wish to combine the two, the opening scene, which is the same for each package, would not need to be repeated, so you would have a performance with a running time of approximately one hour in length.

There is no magical performance order to either package, other than having the introductory scene first. Currently, they are listed in alphabetical order, Although any order will work. If you have a small cast and have students in 2 or more skits, the skits can be arranged in the order that best allows costume, scene, and/or set changes. Set are not needed, but costumes are recommended. Alternatively, these skits could simply be read in class or in readers theater style on a stage, in the classroom or in front of an outside audience.

These skits are an ideal way to conclude a myth unit and to have fun doing that - or, they can simply be performed as a production for some special event.

MYTHS AND SUCH - AN OVERVIEW...

PACKAGE ONE is designed to motivate you, your students, and your audience to “play” with 6 well-known myths. To set up this program and, prior to the myths, it is suggested that you first perform the brief scene called “Myth vs. Fairy Tale.” After that, the order of performance for the following skits is optional.

1. **MYTH VS. FAIRY TALE** - In this short scene, one friend is trying to tell the other friend a myth. The other friend disputes the way the story is started, arguing that "once upon a time" is exclusive to fairy tales. From there, the argument progresses.

APOLLO AND PHAETON - In this version of the story where Phaeton coerces his father, Apollo, the sun god, to give him a chance to drive the golden chariot for a day, his mother, Apollo's mortal wife, ultimately intervenes to save the day.

DAEDALUS AND ICARUS - In this version of the story (when Daedalus and his son Icarus escape from Crete on wings made of feathers and wax), King Minos of Crete is being interviewed by a television reporter after the escape has taken place. The king is not a happy camper.

GOLDEN APPLE OF DISCORD - In this version of the story (when Eris, goddess of discord, is unhappy at being left out of social matters on Olympus, and starts the Olympian contest to determine the fairest goddess by tossing a golden apple into the midst of the goddesses with "to the most fair" written on it), the true story of how Paris picked Aphrodite, who then gave him Helen, which then started the Trojan War, is told.

JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS - In this version of the story (when Jason and the Argonauts capture and return with the golden fleece), a modern story teller is attempting to relate it to a dude who, though apparently not too smart, is really looking at the story from another angle, and interrupts regularly to point this out.

ODYSSEUS AND THE CYCLOPS - In this version of the story (when Odysseus outwits the cyclops who has him and his men trapped in a cave), Odysseus again proves to be smarter, but without the poke in the eye for the cyclops, but still with the wine.

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE - In this version of the story (when Orpheus nearly gets his love, Eurydice, back from the dead), a modern story teller is regularly interrupted by the listener who insists on changing the complicated Greek names in the story to more modern and familiar ones.

MYTH VERSUS FAIRY TALE

by Lee Karvonen

This skit should open your performance. It will then be followed by the skits in Package One *OR* Package Two (each package is a 30-35 minute show) – *OR* a combination of both Packages (approximately an hour-long show).

(ONE and TWO enter chatting.)

ONE: What do you want to do?

TWO: Tell me a story. A myth!

ONE: Once upon a time, long, long--

TWO: Wait a minute! Wait a minute!

ONE: What?

TWO: This is a *myth*!

ONE: So!

TWO: So it's a myth, not a fairy tale! You can't start a myth with "Once upon a time!"

ONE: Why not?

TWO: Because it's a myth!

ONE: Did myths really happen?

TWO: No!

ONE: Did fairy tales really happen?

TWO: N--No!

ONE: So what's the difference if they both start with "Once upon a time?"

TWO: It doesn't, um, I mean, um, you should, uh, it's not, uh, well, in the myth handbook--

ONE: The myth handbook!?

TWO: Yes, the myth handbook! It shows the proper way to start a myth.

ONE: After you.

TWO: Wha--? Oh! Yes. Once--

ONE: Uh!

TWO: Long ago, in a far away land, ...

ONE: Yes, yes.

Opening Skit

TWO: Well, I ...

ONE: Go on. Go on.

TWO: I--I can't.

ONE: Why not?

TWO: I don't know what myth you were telling.

ONE: You should be slapped!

TWO: You're right. Please, go on with your myth.

ONE: Uh oh.

TWO: What?

ONE: I've forgotten what I was going to tell.

TWO: Oh, no. I'm sorry.

ONE: You certainly are.

TWO: Maybe you could tell a nice joke.

(ONE chases TWO off.)

THE GOLDEN APPLE OF DISCORD

by Lee Karvonen

CAST:

NARRATOR 1 - N1, NARRATOR - N2, NARRATOR - N3, NARRATOR - N4,
NARRATOR - N5, HERA, APHRODITE, ATHENA, PARIS

(Narrators 1, 2, 3, and 4 begin onstage.)

N1: This is the story of the Golden Apple of Discord.

N2: It seems that the goddesses on Mt. Olympus could not agree on who was the most beautiful and wonderful.

N 3: Eris, the Goddess of Discord, was not included in the contest.

N 4: She was not pleased with this oversight, not at all.

N 1: In fact, she was a little upset.

N 2: In point of fact, she was ANGRY.

N 3: She was, by the way, the twin sister of Ares, God of War, so anger management kinda ran in the family.

N 4: She decided that she was going to do something about this slight.

N1: So, she went to the Olympus fruit store and bought a golden apple.

N2: And on it she inscribed, "To the most fair."

N3: Well, there went the neighborhood.

N4: Every goddess felt that she was the most fair.

N1: And though they tell us that beauty is only skin deep

N2: We know that is entirely true.

N3: And entirely important.

N4: So, the fight was on!

N 5: (enters) Meanwhile, back at the contest, three goddesses
were nominated for Ms. Olympus.

There was Hera, wife of Zeus and Queen of the Gods.

(Hera enters and bows.)

There was Athena, Goddess of Wisdom.

(Athena enters and bows.)

And there was Aphrodite, Goddess of Love.

(Aphrodite enters and waves cutely.)

N 5: But who could judge this contest. All the gods had their favourites.

N 2: They chose Paris, (Paris enters and nods.) a young man tending sheep in the mountains.

N3: But that was just his hobby. His day job was being the second son of Priam, King of Troy.

N4: Paris was a hunk, a stud, but currently between main squeezes.

PARIS: (enters)

I know I'm a hunk and a stud. Well, just look at me! And I get to choose the most beautiful goddess. And since I'm currently between main squeezes, I'm interested. Maybe I'll get lucky! A goddess! Oh, WOW!!!

N5: Naturally, each of the three nominees tried to bribe him.

HERA: Paris, if you choose me, and you will choose me, I will make you the richest man in the world. You will be able to buy anything you want. Could you ask for more?

ATHENA: Paris, if you choose me, and I would be a very wise choice, I will give you the invaluable gift of wisdom. You will know anything you want. Could you ask for more?

APHRODITE: Paris, when you choose me, I will give you the most beautiful woman in the world. You know you want her. You will have her, as soon as you choose me.

N2: As I said, Paris was a hunk.

N4: No, I said that!

N3: Okay, you said that. It was said! And vanity ran in Paris' family.

N1: Ran? It sprinted! And the hunk could not say no to the most beautiful woman in the world who, incidentally, was already married, to a Greek king. Do you see where this is going?

N2: Oh, yes! That is exactly where it is going!

N3: He chose Aphrodite.

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The Golden Apple of Discord
A PACKAGE ONE SKIT

APHRODITE: You made a beautiful decision, Paris. I'm going to give you
Helen of Troy, the most beautiful woman in the world.

ATHENA: You did not make a wise decision, Paris. You will get absolutely
no help from me when you write your government exams!

HERA: You did not make a good financial decision, Paris. So hit the
bricks, bucko; you're looking for work!

PARIS: Where is she? When do I get her? I can't wait!

N4: Just like a man!

N1: Do you blame him?

N2: Yes!

N3: This will lead to the Trojan War which takes about seven years to
complete.

N4: So we'll just wrap it up now from Mt. Olympus before all heck
breaks loose.

(lights down)

THE END

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ORPHEUS & EURYDICE

by Lee Karvonen

CAST:

ONE

TWO

TWO: (entering RIGHT and waving back off stage) Later.

ONE: You're late!

TWO: Nice hello.

ONE: Hello. Would you like to hear a story?

TWO: Sure.

ONE: Orpheus was the greatest Greek musician. He played beautiful music on his lyre.

TWO: His LIAR? L-I-A-R? You're kidding me!

ONE: No. His lyre. L-Y-R-E. It's a harp.

TWO: Well, then, why didn't you say harp?

ONE: In the story it's a lyre.

TWO: I understand harp better.

ONE: (shakes head) Okay, he played beautiful music on his harp.

TWO: Thank you.

ONE: And he loved the beautiful Eurydice.

TWO: Hold it! Wait a minute! Yur-i-dee-chee?

ONE: Yes. That was his girlfriend's name.

TWO: Nobody is called Yur-i-dee-chee! I like Sally better.

ONE: But she wasn't Sally! She was Eury--

TWO: Sally!

ONE: (shakes head again) Sally. And he loved the beautiful Eury--Sally..
One day Sally was walking through a field when she was bitten on the foot by a poisonous snake. She limped home to her mother, Demeter, who--

TWO: Hold it! Stop! Demeter?

ONE: That was her mother's name -- Demeter.

TWO: Nobody wants to call Mom Demeter! How about Martha?

ONE: But--

TWO: Uh! Martha!

ONE: She limped home to her mother, Martha, who tried to save her, but she died and made the long trip down to Hades.

TWO: Hey! Hades?

ONE: King of the underworld.

TWO: I thought that was Al Capone.

ONE: Different underworld. This one's where the dead people go.

TWO: I don't like Hades.

ONE: Who does?

TWO: I mean the name. How about Jack?

ONE: You have to be--

TWO: Ja--ack!

ONE: She made the long trip to see Jack. She was so lovely and he was so single that he married her. Wait a minute! Wrong story! She was stuck there, and Dem--Martha was not happy. Orpheus was beside himself.

TWO: Whoa! Beside himself? What was he? A twin?

ONE: No! I meant he was so upset! He couldn't eat, he couldn't sleep, he couldn't play the ly--harp! So he decided to make the long trip down to
Ha--to Jack to see if he could work out a deal to bring Eur--Sally back. Halfway down he got Charon to ferry him across the River Styx--

TWO: Hey! Hey! Hey! Charon? River Styx?

ONE: It's what they're called!

TWO: How about Charlie and the River Stones?

ONE: I don't even want to--

TWO: Uh! Uh!