

The Myth of Sisyphus

(Story words: Zeus, Hades, roll, rolling, boulder)

Jack's sixth grade English class was studying Greek myths. For the final project, Jack had to make a poster which illustrated a common theme in Greek myths.

The class had talked a lot about how the Greek gods loved to devise punishments for humans who had the nerve to try to compete with them. Jack needed a statement for his theme, and he came up with this one: In Greek myths, the gods always have the last laugh.

Sisyphus was a crafty king who thought he was just as clever as the gods. He got into a conflict with Zeus, the king of the gods. Zeus had a secret—he had been hiding the river god's daughter. Sisyphus was stupid enough to tattle on the king of the gods.

When Sisyphus was sent to the underworld, he then played a trick or two on Hades, the god of the underworld. Now, rather than one powerful enemy, Sisyphus had two gods angry at him.

Jack's poster depicted the horrible punishment Zeus and Hades devised for Sisyphus. Sisyphus had to spend eternity rolling an enormous boulder up a hill in the underworld. When the boulder reached the top of the hill, it would roll right back down, and Sisyphus would have to roll it back up again. Jack drew Sisyphus at the bottom, middle, and top of the hill.

Jack had a good idea of how to finish the poster. He drew Zeus and Hades, looking down on Sisyphus. They were smiling and giving each other a high-five.