



Two Greek Myths (Answer Keys and Tapescripts)

Answer Keys

Task 1

Part A: Note-taking

Pre-listening Activity: Making Predictions

1. j	2. b	3. f	4. c
5. e	6. a	7. l	8. k
9. i	10. h	11. d	12. g

Task: Note-taking

1. He probably thinks that is something so weird and unbelievable.
2. i) 2000 years ago in ancient Greece.
ii) She is the goddess of love who makes something extraordinary happen.
iii) He is a young sculptor, an artist who makes statues from marble or wood, stone or metal. He vowed he will never get married because he thinks he can never find the perfect woman. He works very hard and creates a perfectly beautiful woman statue.
3. It is so beautiful that people weep when they see it.
It appears so real that people have to touch it and feel the coldness of the stone for they do not believe it is not real.
4. i) d) weird
ii) Dino will probably think Pygmalion is out of his mind.
5. a) miserable
6. He strokes her hands, her face.
He takes her in his arms.
He dresses her up in rich robes and brings her presents of little birds, bunches of flowers.
He puts her to bed and tucks her in like little girls do with their dolls.
7. He prays that Venus will find him a beautiful woman like the statue he creates from stone.
8. Because she is interested in Pygmalion who is a brilliant sculptor. Venus is always ready to help people in love.
9. He goes to see the statue and caresses her. He is shocked when he feels warmth to his touch. The lips of the statue are soft when Pygmalion kisses them. The statue's shoulders and arms are soft.
10. i. fact
ii. opinion
iii. fact
iv. fact
v. opinion
vi. opinion



Part B: Personality Matching Activity

<u>B</u>	Honest
<u>C</u>	Intelligent
<u>I</u>	Creative
<u>G</u>	Frank
<u>A</u>	Generous
<u>I</u>	Ambitious
<u>H</u>	Cultured
<u>E</u>	Bigmouth
<u>D</u>	Punctual
<u>F</u>	Inconsiderate

Task 3

Part A: Note-taking

Pre-listening Activity: Matching Activity

- | |
|-------------|
| 1. E |
| 2. F |
| 3. G |
| 4. C |
| 5. D |
| 6. A |
| 7. B |
| 8. H |

Task: Note-taking

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Because William Shakespeare used their story as part of his famous play “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”.2. They live next to each other, they talk to each other through a small hole in the wall that separates their gardens.3. Because their parents won’t let them.4. Burning love for each other, and how cruel it is to be separated by a stone wall.5. They utter words, they whisper very softly.6. 1, 6, 2, 9, 4, 5, 8, 3, 7, 10 |
|---|



Task 4

Pre-listening Activity: Anticipation

Suggested answers

	Pygmalion and the Statue	Pyramus and Thisbe
The two students' responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pygmalion might be a perfectionist who thinks no perfect women exist in his time.• Pygmalion might be an introvert who does not have a social life.• Pygmalion is mad as he falls in love with a statue.• It is gross to love something unhuman.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love is blind.• One can do anything in order to be with his/her love.• Love is sacrificial.

Task: Note-taking

1. **Because she thinks that they can die for love but the first story is a bit silly as Pygmalion falls in love with a statue.**
2. **No, no one is perfect.**
3. **A statue is not a living thing but a person can share his/her life with you as both of you get old.**
4. **b) not so important**



Tapescripts

Task 1

For Part A (Duration – 6:55)

Presenter: Can you imagine falling in love with a statue?

Hello, and welcome to the Reading Ear. My name is Dino Mahoney, and on today's programme we are going to be talking about two Greek Myths – Pygmalion and Galatea, and also Pyramus and Thisbe. Also on today's programme we have two students from Buddhist Ma Kam Chan Memorial English Secondary School in Fanling, and they are Helen Ya. Hi, Helen and also Tracey Sin. (Hi). Hello, Tracey nice to have you with us today. I will be talking to them later.

Myths were stories told over 2000 years ago in ancient Greece. They are stories that are about people and about gods. The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods – for example, the king of the gods was Zeus - Z-E-U-S - and other famous gods are Aphrodite – the goddess of love, and Apollo, god of the sun, the arts and of healing. Many of the Greek gods are today better known by their Roman names. A good example of this is the goddess of love, Aphrodite. We usually call her Venus, the goddess of love. In our first myth, Venus appears, and with her powers as a goddess, she makes something extraordinary happen. Remember I asked you if you could imagine falling in love with a statue, well, that's exactly what Pygmalion does. Pygmalion is a young sculptor (a sculptor is an artist who makes statues from marble or wood, stone or metal). Pygmalion vowed he would never get married because he thought he could never find the perfect woman. Instead, he tried to create the perfect woman himself out of marble (marble is a beautiful white stone). Pygmalion worked very hard on creating a statue of a perfectly beautiful woman.

A gifted young artist resolved never to marry. His art, he told himself, was enough for him. And he spent all his days, and a good part of every night working on the sculpture of a woman. And he made a marble statue of a woman so beautiful that people wept when they saw it. No woman was ever born, no statue ever made as beautiful as Pygmalion's marble woman. The statue was so real that people had to touch it and feel the coldness of the stone before they believe it was not a real woman standing in front of them.

And, then something strange happens. Pygmalion starts to buy beautiful clothes for his statue, and he even starts to kiss the statue. How do you think the lips of a statue would feel? (Brr) very cold.

He kissed her lips. They could not kiss him back. He stroked her hands, her face. But she was unresponsive. He took her in his arms, but she was cold and hard as stone. For a time he tried to pretend, as children do with their toys. He would dress her in rich robes. He would bring her presents – little birds and bunches of flowers. He put her to bed at night, and tucked her in, as little girls do with their dolls.

Pygmalion was wretched, because Pygmalion loved a lifeless thing.



(Cont'd)

Strange, isn't it? A man in love with a stone statue. But this is where Venus comes into the story, Venus, the goddess of love. Well, Pygmalion goes to worship Venus at her temple, the same way that Christians will go to the church to pray, or Muslims will go to their mosques to pray to Allah – and can you guess what he prayed for? What he asked Venus to do for him? Yes, he asked Venus to help him find a woman as beautiful as the statue of the woman he had created from stone.

Venus was interested in Pygmalion. He was a brilliant sculptor, and Venus was always ready to help people in love, even if they were in love with a piece of stone. So Venus decides to help Pygmalion.

After Pygmalion came from the temple of Venus, he went straightaway to see his stone woman. There she stood on her pedestal, entrancingly beautiful. He caressed her. Then he got a shock – (s)he felt warm to his touch; he kissed her lips, a long, lingering kiss, and felt them grow soft beneath his lips. He touched her arms, her shoulders – their hardness vanished. It was like watching wax soften in the sun. He clasped her wrists. Blood was pulsing in them. Venus, he thought, sweet Venus, - she has made my dream come true. And he threw his arms around his beloved, and she smiled into his eyes, and blushed.

Amazing – Venus has made the cold, stone statue come alive, and Pygmalion who said he would never marry, because he could never find the perfect woman, marries his statue. He names her Galatea (actually, this is a modern addition to the myth), which means 'as white as milk', and Pygmalion and Galatea had a son they called Pathos. Beautiful story, isn't it?

Task 3

For Part A (Duration – 2:18)

Presenter: Our second story is also about two lovers, Pyramus and Thisbe. These lovers are especially famous because William Shakespeare used their story as part of his famous play "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Pyramus and Thisbe is similar in some ways to the story of Romeo and Juliet: the two young people live next to each other, but their parents won't let them meet. Their only way of meeting is by talking to each other through a small hole in the wall that separates their gardens.

Every morning very early they would go out to the hole in the wall and utter words of burning love to each other, and talk about how cruel it was to be separated by a stone wall, but all this they did in their softest whispers for fear that their parents would hear.



(Cont'd)

Finally their love is so strong, they decide to run away. They make a date to meet in the countryside under a fruit tree near a famous temple. Thisbe gets there first, but she sees a wild lion and runs away. As she runs, she drops her cloak, and the lion rips the cloak to pieces. Now, the lion has just killed and eaten a deer, so its mouth is all bloody, and some of this blood goes on Thisbe's cloak. Later Pyramus turns up, sees the cloak, and thinks – well, you can guess, can't you? – He thinks his darling Thisbe has been killed by a lion. Pyramus is so unhappy, he plunges his sword into his side, and as he does so all the white fruit on the fruit tree turns into red. And then Thisbe comes back and finds him lying in blood.

She flew to him, and threw her arms around him. She kissed his cold lips, and begged him to look at her. "It's me, Thisbe, your dearest, look at me." Pyramus opened his eyes for the last time, and as he closed them, he crossed over into death, and she took the sword from his hand, and plunged it into her own side. "If we cannot be together in life, I shall follow you into death."

Task 4 (Duration – 3:47)

Presenter: Mm, two amazing stories there. Well, maybe we can turn to our studio guests, Helen and Tracey. Helen, which of the two stories did you prefer?

Helen: I prefer the second one.

Presenter: Uhu, can you tell us why?

Helen: Mm, because they can die for love. Mm, the first one is a bit silly to me – because how can you love a statue? It's silly.

Presenter: But he's looking for the perfect woman, isn't he? Do you think that the perfect woman or the perfect man exists? Do you think that you can find a perfect...?

Helen: No, no one's perfect.

Presenter: Right. But, he thought that he could make a sculpture that would be absolutely perfect, so that was...

Helen: Well, that's a statue only; it's not a person. (Yeah) Isn't dying – it's (a) sort of dying thing, it's not alive, dead. (Right) A person is different. (Yes) We live, we get old, but a statue doesn't.

Presenter: Yes, yes. But then, the statue comes alive, doesn't it? And then, it is the perfect person.

Helen: Well, that's... it doesn't occur in reality.

(Laughter)



(Cont'd)

Presenter: So do you think you will never find the perfect person then?

Helen: You mean him?

Presenter: You?

Helen: Me?

Presenter: Yeah.

Helen: Um, I have found one.

Presenter: Oh, wonderful! That's fantastic. That's great. What do you think is more important – the way people look, or the way people are? Because definitely, in the story, the sculptor is much more interested in the appearance, isn't it? Pygmalion thinks that the perfect woman means perfectly beautiful from the outside. What do you think of that?

Helen: Well, of course, look(s) is important, but personality is also important.

Presenter: Mm. Do you agree with that?

Tracey: Yes, I agree.

Presenter: And what personality do you like? What kind of personality do you find...?

Tracey: Kind, gentle, generous, and they have good manners. They should respect others, and think of other's feelings too.

Presenter: Great, well, I like that. I agree with that. How about you? Do you agree with the same kind of qualities?

Helen: Yes, the same.

Presenter: The same, yup. Umm. In what ways is "Pyramus and Thisbe" like "Romeo and Juliet"? There are some similarities, aren't there?

Helen: They can die for love.

Presenter: Yeah, that's the main one, isn't it? Dying for love, yeah. Ymm, now are there any statues in Hong Kong? Have you seen any statues in Hong Kong?

Helen: Yeah, in my school.

Presenter: In your school – can you tell us about it?

Helen: The statue of Ma Kam Chan.



(Cont'd)

Presenter: Who's that actually?

Helen: It's the founder of our school.

Presenter: Right. And what is the sculpture made of?

Tracey: Um, stone.

Presenter: Stone, and what does he look like? Does he look serious or happy?

Tracey: Serious.

Presenter: Serious, is he sitting or standing?

Helen: I can't tell.

Tracey: Both not.

Tracey: It's just the head. We can't see.

Presenter: Oh, I see, it's just a head. Right. OK. What do you think is the most famous statue in Hong Kong at the moment?

Helen: The one in Lantau.

Presenter: Oh, the one in Lantau, and what's that?

Tracey: Temple/ The Buddha.

Helen: The Buddha.

Presenter: The big Buddha. Thank you very much.