

## PowerUP Jax Fall 2016 Grant Winner

10. Priscilla Hardage  
Chimney Lakes Elementary  
Subject/Grade: 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Project Title: "Gods and goddesses and creatures oh my!"

### **Project Summary:**

"Gods and goddesses and creatures oh my!" introduces students to the "major" players, conflicts, themes, settings, and battles of Greek mythology. Teaching mythology connects students to different cultures and increases student appreciation for literature, world history and art history. Students will learn how characters, stories, themes and lessons in Greek Mythology has shaped art and literature for thousands of years! So many of Western civilization's morals and values are rooted in Greek Mythology. To purchase Storyworks, the guru of magazines for 4th and 5th graders, will inspire my students to read mythological plays but also thrilling and rich fiction, non-fiction, poetry and debate. They become masters at wordplay. Storyworks has a kid-friendly website full of standard-based activities, games and videos. It is expensive and I need your help to enrich my students' lives.

### **How many students will be directly involved? Explain any further impact on other students, teachers, the school as a whole, and/or the community.**

There will be 50 students directly involved. The entire school will be introduced through bulletin boards, a school newsletter, my teacher website and Power Up Jax! Once successful, I will share my lesson plans and activities with other teachers in my school, the district and beyond. During parent "Literacy Night," I plan on highlighting the project.

### **How will the project specifically increase student learning? Be sure to explain the project's connections to existing learning standards. Be clear about what new skills, knowledge, and/or dispositions the students will acquire.**

This unit will increase student learning because it's FUN, engaging, rigorous and relevant to students. These are a few of the many common core standards taught in this unit. Standards: LAFS..L.4.9 Compare and contrast similar themes in stories, myths and traditional literature from different cultures LAFS.RL.4.6 Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated. LAFS. RL. Determine the theme of a story, drama or poem from details in the text. LAFS. 4. L.3.4 Greek and Latin Roots and Affixes LAFD.4.RL.4.2.4 Meaning of words and phrases Students will use the study of Greek root words to increase mature vocabulary and use context clues for understanding new words in text. New stories, new themes and new characters will enrich cultural and historical learning. Close examination of and comparison of varying media including plays, prose, poetry and video further enhance understanding of perspectives of characters and the motivations behind each myth. Students will learn to use evidence from different text and varying media as small groups must synthesize to produce something new. Fourth graders just completed a poetry study and to write a rap collaboratively about a mythological character will illustrate the collaboration of the new product. One of the highest forms of learning is to "Play." Students will choose small groups and design their own Mythological Character Rap as they "play" with rhyme, rhythm, and sound. As students become "master wordsmiths" at the culmination of the 2-3 week study, they will dress as their character during the performance. The performance will be relevant, personal and memorable. I can't wait, but more importantly, neither can my students!!!

### **What is your plan for evaluating the success of your project? What artifacts (photographs, samples of student work, testimonials, etc...) would you use to demonstrate the effectiveness of the project?**

The success will be measured through photos and video of students performing short plays about Zeus, Medusa, and a tale from The Odyssey. Differentiated student work will include a close examination of themes, illustrated character analysis and cartoons created by students. Culminating activities include a Socratic Seminar and student raps about mythological characters in costume.