

Name _____

Mr. Wendel

English 1 Pre AP, Period _____

Date _____

Mythology

Chapter 6

Pyramus and Thisbe: Using an Archetype (40 pts)

Objective: CCSS 9.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

As a literary device, an **archetype** is a reoccurring symbol or motif throughout literature that represents universal patterns of human nature. It can also refer to the original model on which all other things of the same kind are based. For example, the common character of a hero is an archetype in that all heroes in literature share some key traits. We can also call certain famous heroes such as King Arthur and Luke Skywalker archetypal heroes, as they fit this mold.

Pyramus and Thisbe follow the archetypal plot of star-crossed lovers

Pyramus and Thisbe, the young Babylonian lovers, share a forbidden love that is separated by a wall. While attempting to elope, Pyramus mistakenly thinks Thisbe has been killed and rashly commits suicide, whereupon Thisbe in despair stabs herself. The climax in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* closely resembles Pyramus and Thisbe: Romeo believes Juliet to be dead and kills himself; Juliet discovers him and similarly takes her life. Each story consists of the same material, depicting romantic love and tragic destiny.

The theme of star-crossed lovers is universal and archetypal because the story can be told in any time and place, and it seems to recur again and again. The story of ill-fated lovers from feuding families has been retold countless times, and now it is your turn to tell the tale. Using third-person narration, rewrite the love story of Pyramus and Thisbe. Choose a setting by deciding when (past, present, or future) and where the story takes place. Be as creative as you wish, but create details that are recognizable as the archetype and create tension.

Here are some questions to guide your creation of an effective narrative. Does my narrative

- 1) Have 300+ words (1 1/2 pages or more). Is the narrative long enough to capture the story archetype?
- 2) Engage the reader in the exposition by creating the problem clearly, introducing characters?
- 3) Build to the climax of the story by creating multiple complications and rising action? Does it slow down action at climax?
- 4) Use dialogue, reflections from characters, to reveal motivations and make them "real" or "round"
- 5) Use sensory detail and precise language to convey a vivid picture - sight, sounds, touch, smells. Does it put us there?
- 6) Provide a conclusion that reflects on what was experienced, resolved, and what it teaches?
- 7) Capture the main ingredients of the archetype?
 - two young lovers - romantic tragedy – suicide - forbidden - two sides/houses
 - moods: tense, passionate - tone: serious (if you use childish characters it will be comic or a parody)