

THE ROLE OF MYTHOLOGY IN LITERATURE AND EDUCATION

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Abstract: In this article, we explore the changing role of mythology in education, emphasizing its ability to foster critical thinking, cultural literacy, and empathic understanding in students.

Keywords: Myth, mythology, empathy, contextualization, metaphor, allegories, folklore, archetypes, allegory, symbolism, silvization, dilemmas, philosophical questions, integration.

Enter: A set of primitive ideas of the ancient people about the universe and existence is a myth. Myth is derived from the Greek word "mythos" and means "narrative, legend, legend, story, fable." A myth is a myth that appeared in the earliest periods of folk art and not only reflects the visions of humanity at that time, but also embodies exaggerated religious views and textures through clear images. That is, includes beliefs about the creation of the universe, the appearance of heavenly bodies, the origin of plants and animals, the causes and essence of natural phenomena, mythical heroes, gods and goddesses.[1 ;237]

References and methodology: The art of folk oral performance is of great importance in the popularization of myths and their transmission from generation to generation. It is noted that there are more than 500 definitions of the term myth in scientific sources. [2;110] Mythology, the ancient repository of humanity's collective imagination, is a treasure trove of stories, symbols, and wisdom that have profoundly shaped cultures around the world. Although often relegated to the realms of literature and folklore, mythology has enormous untapped potential as an educational tool. With its colorful pantheon of gods, heroes and monsters, mythology has captured the imagination for thousands of years. Beyond mere entertainment, myths serve as powerful educational tools that provide insight into the human condition, moral dilemmas, and existential questions that transcend time and culture.

Discussion and results: Through the study of mythology, students grapple with complex themes such as love, betrayal, heroism, and death, engaging in a multifaceted study of the human experience. One of the greatest strengths of mythology is its ability to stimulate critical thinking and analytical thinking. Mythological narratives are rich in symbolism, allegory, and metaphor, inviting readers to uncover hidden meanings and interpret deeper truths. By analyzing mythological texts, students develop important skills in textual analysis, literary interpretation, and historical contextualization. They learn to question assumptions, challenge assumptions, and engage in nuanced discussions about the cultural, social, and psychological aspects of myth. In an increasingly interconnected world, cultural literacy and intercultural competence are essential skills for navigating diverse societies. Mythology presents a rich tapestry of stories and traditions from different cultures, giving students an understanding of the values, beliefs and worldviews of different communities. By studying myths from around the world, students develop empathy, cultural sensitivity, and a greater understanding of the complexities of the human experience. They learn to appreciate the diversity of human cultures and perspectives, fostering a more inclusive and interconnected global community. To fully utilize the educational potential of mythology, educators must incorporate mythological studies into the curriculum. In literature classes, students can explore archetypal symbols and universal themes found

in the myths of different cultures. In history classes, students can explore the role of mythology in shaping political ideologies, religious beliefs, and social structures throughout history. Students in visual arts classes can analyze how mythological motifs and symbols are depicted in visual arts, architecture, and performing arts. By weaving mythology into different subject areas, teachers can create a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to education that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and cultural literacy. For example:

Cultural Studies: Mythology provides a window into the values, beliefs, and practices of different cultures throughout history. By studying the myths of different societies, students can gain a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and the common human experience.

Literature and Language Arts: Many classical works of literature are rich in mythological references and themes. Incorporating mythology into the study of literature helps students appreciate the depth of literary allusion and symbolism. They can analyze how authors draw inspiration from mythological stories and characters to convey universal truths and explore complex themes.

History and Social Studies: Mythological stories often reflect historical events, social structures, and the political ideologies of the societies that created them. By studying myths alongside historical and archaeological evidence, students can develop a nuanced understanding of ancient civilizations and their contributions to human history.

Critical Thinking and Analysis: The study of mythology encourages critical thinking skills as students analyze and interpret complex stories, symbols, and motifs. They learn to identify recurring themes, evaluate sources, and make connections between mythological stories and contemporary issues.

Psychology and Human Behavior: Mythological Archetypes and Motifs provide valuable insights into human psychology and behavior. Students may explore the psychological aspects of myth, including the role of mythology in shaping individual identity, collective consciousness, and societal norms.

Creative Expression: Mythology stimulates creativity and imagination, inspiring students to engage in artistic endeavors such as writing, storytelling, visual arts, and performance.

Moral and Moral Education: Mythological stories often contain moral lessons, moral dilemmas, and philosophical inquiries that prompt reflection and discussion. By exploring the moral implications of mythological narratives, students develop empathy, moral reasoning, and a deeper appreciation of moral principles.

Interdisciplinary Connections: Mythology bridges many academic disciplines, creating opportunities for interdisciplinary learning. By integrating mythological themes into science, math, technology, and other subjects, teachers can enrich students' understanding and encourage cross-curricular connections.

Cultural Literacy and Global Citizenship: Understanding the mythology of different cultures in an increasingly interconnected world fosters cultural literacy and global citizenship. By studying myths from different regions and eras, students develop empathy, respect for cultural diversity, and a sense of interconnectedness with people around the world.

Life Skills and Personal Development: Mythology encourages introspection and self-discovery as students relate mythological themes to their own lives and experiences. By exploring universal human themes such as love, loss, heroism, and change, students develop empathy, resilience, and a deeper understanding of themselves and others.

Summary: Incorporating mythology into education not only enhances academic learning, but also fosters empathy, critical thinking, creativity, and cultural appreciation, empowering students to become knowledgeable, compassionate, and engaged global citizens. As educators, it is our responsibility to recognize and harness the transformative power of mythology in education. By incorporating mythological studies into the curriculum, we can help students expand their critical thinking. Let us embrace the rich legacy of mythology as a living repository of human wisdom and imagination, inspiring the next generation to explore, question and discover the deep truths hidden within the timeless stories of myth.

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