

It's Greek to Me By Rosebud

Several English **words** originate from **Greek myths**. One such word is tantalize. Tantalize means to tempt or tease by keeping something just out of reach. Tantalus, who was the son of Zeus, was often invited to dine with the gods. Unfortunately, he made them extremely angry by providing delicious ambrosia to the mortals. The gods banished him to the underworld. He tried to drink the water and eat the fruit that was nearby, but they annoyingly slipped away. Because the food and water were out of reach, he was eternally tantalized. Tantalize is a **word** from a **Greek myth** that we use today.

Another **English** word from a **Greek myth** is **arachnid**. An arachnid is an eight-legged bug, like a spider. Arachne was a girl who loved to weave. She thought that she was better than Athena, the Greek goddess of weaving. She challenged Athena to a weaving contest. Arachne's work was flawless which made Athena furious. Because she was a goddess, Athena broke Arachne's loom and turned her into a spider. She was eternally doomed to weave webs. **Arachnid** is one of many **English** words that developed from a **Greek myth**.

There are also many **expressions** that have roots in **Greek mythology**. One such expression is "a Sisyphean task," which means an endless or pointless undertaking. Sisyphus was a greedy and cunning king. He betrayed many of the gods including Zeus. After he died, Zeus and Hades punished Sisyphus because of his treachery. They made him roll a heavy boulder up a massive hill. Whenever he reached the top, the boulder would infuriatingly roll down the hill. This irritating

cycle would last forever. A Sisyphean task is yet another example of an English **expression** from **Greek myths**.

The final **expression** from a **Greek myth** is "**Pandora's** box", which seems harmless but ends up causing a disaster. Pandora was the first woman cleverly created by the gods. Zeus crafted her because he wanted to unmercifully punish mankind. Therefore, he fashioned her to be beautiful, but curious. Before she left, Zeus handed her a gorgeous box and warned her to never open it. She became more and more curious. She could no longer resist and slightly cracked it open. All of the evil suddenly slipped out and filled the world for time to come. **Pandora** is one of many characters in **Greek myths** who give us interesting **expressions**.