

Greek Drama: Self-Guided Research

The idea here is simple. You need to go to the web and do a little research on the following topics/questions. How much? Well, you decide. The idea here is not for you to do a bunch of busy work filling pages; the idea is for you to actually understand what each of these topics is really about. You can work with a partner or two, but **do not** divide and conquer. Work on each question together. Each of you needs your own page. Use your own paper to research each of the headings below. Due on Tuesday.

Oh! Underneath each, you need to cite your sources. Wikipedia may be used only up to three times. In total, you need a minimum of six different sources (including wikipedia). Other sites should be academic (in other words, look for .edu sources, journals, avoid sites with advertising unless they seem legit). A basic online citation looks like this (remember, your job is to include as much as you can, skip the citation parts that aren't available):

Author Last, Author First. "Title of article or section or entry." *Title of Website*. Publisher or University. Location. Date Published or last Modified. Web. Date accessed.

Here's a sample:

Hipwickett, Lum Lum. "Ridiculous Names and the Lasting Effects on Children." *The Naming Journal*. New York University: New York. 17 March 2007. Web. 14 January 2014.

If you are not sure how to cite...look it up. Purdue University's OWL (online writing lab) is a great place to figure it out. Do your best.

Head online and research each of the following topics. Do your best to answer all of the questions.

Greek Drama: Modern entertainment (movies, theater, musicals, etc.) owe a lot (basically everything) to ancient Greek Drama. However, theater as we know it did not start out looking remotely similar to what we recognize it as today. What are the origins of Greek Drama? Who is Dionysus? What role does he play? What role does religion play in Greek drama? Festivals? Competitions?...what are those all about? How did it evolve? Who's Thespis?

The Theater: Why were the first theaters built? What did they look like? Draw one and label the important parts. What purpose does each physical element have? What's the really famous one? Where is it?

Sophocles: He wrote *The Theban Plays* (*Oedipus* and *Antigone* are a part of those). What else is known about him? His life and work? Who are the other big names in Greek Drama? What did Sophocles' plays tend to focus on?

The Plays: What are the three different types of Greek drama? Which is the most important? What does Aristotle say about that important one? Who's Aristotle? What is Aristotle's Poetics?

Unities: What are the Greek Unities (sometimes called Classical Unities)? Why do they exist? Be sure you can explain each.

Structure: Unlike the drama you are most familiar with (Shakespeare), Greek Drama is not divided into acts and scenes exactly the way you are used to. What's the typical structure of a Greek tragedy? Be sure you know what a parados, ode/stasimone, prologos, and exodus is (no, I did not put those in order...yes, due to translations, the spellings and name might be a bit different than what I put down).

Masks: They wore them. Why? When did they stop being used? Draw one.

Chorus: What is the chorus all about? What purpose does it serve? When does the chorus appear on stage? Why? Who's the Choragos? What role does he play? What's this strophe/antistrophe all about? What are modern examples/adaptations of the chorus? (make sure you know them...don't write down random examples).

Tragic Hero: You could spend all day researching this...don't. Instead, figure out what the basic "plot/timeline" of a tragic hero is. We'll tackle all of the specifics together as a class. In short, what's needed to be called a tragic hero?