Greece and Rome Lesson 3
Orpheus and Eurydice

The Basics

Objective: To introduce the participants to a primary source that includes many aspects of ancient Greek culture.

Performance of Skill Expectations/Enduring Understandings: The participants will sit quietly while watching the video and be able to discuss the story afterward.

Prerequisite Lessons: None.

Estimated Materials Preparation Time: 5 minutes.

Duration: Approximately 15 minutes of instruction and video watching. Time for list-making is at the instructor’s discretion.

Materials Provided: The Orpheus and Eurydice video. The video can either be shown from the CD in the box or brought up on the An Artifact Speaks website from this address: https://web.extension.illinois.edu/artifact/videos/greece.

Materials to be Provided by the Instructor: A means of projecting the video for the participants. A place to record the list created (smartboard, easel pad, etc.).

Other Notes: None.

Concepts/Vocabulary
Ferryman: a man who transports people or goods across a body of water.

Procedure

Preparation: Prep the video for quick, easy starting.

Introduction/Instruction: Before starting the video, remind the participants to look for parts of the story that tell them about Greek culture.

Development: Have the participants watch the video. Make a list of all the things they learned by just hearing the introduction to the story and the story. This can include the following:
- What a lyre is, how it is made, and who created it (Hermes).
- Apollo is the god of the sun and of arts.
- Hermes takes the dead to the Underworld.
- The Underworld and Upper World are separated by a river.
- Maenads are followers of the god Dionysus.
• Nymphs are minor goddesses who protect nature.
• Muses are minor goddesses who inspire artists.
• Ancient Greeks buried their dead with coins on their eyes.
• Hades and Persephone are the king and queen of the Underworld.
• The constellation Lyra is named for the lyre of Orpheus.
• The Elysian Fields are a place where those who were good in the Upper World get to spend eternity.

**Reflection:** Generate short discussions with these questions:
• What was your favorite part of the story?
• What do you think happened to the Maenads when they died and came to the Underworld?
• Have you heard a story from another time or another part of the world that was like this story? Tell us about the story.
• Why do you think Orpheus turned down all the marriage proposals he received from the women who listened to his songs?
• Is there anything you would like to do as well as Orpheus played the lyre?

**Assessment:** Did the participants create a relevant and creative list of culture-related facts from the story?