

# Disney HERCULES

Lesson 6

## EPIC POETRY

CURRICULUM AREA

ENGLISH

### MATERIALS

- ✦ Copies of 'Zero to Hero' lyrics
- ✦ Example of acrostic poem
- ✦ Worksheets

### VARIATIONS/EXTENSION

- ✦ Children could create their own acrostic poems for other characters in the film or musical – The Muses, Megara, Zeus, Hades, Philoctetes.

This session should build on the pupils' prior teaching of Hercules – the myth, film or theatre production.

### INTRODUCTION/HOOK

Explain that, in Ancient Greece, social media, TV and even newspapers didn't exist. Therefore, poets such as Homer created epic poems to document and share the lives and achievements of famous heroes such as Hercules. One of the most famous poems that Homer created was called The Odyssey and it described the adventures of a Greek hero named Odysseus. In the animated film and stage production of *Hercules*, The Muses build on this idea of epic poetry and sing about the achievements of characters such as Zeus (in 'The Gospel Truth') and Hercules (in 'Zero to Hero').

### MAIN ACTIVITY

Read the lyrics of 'Zero to Hero' together and pick out some of the qualities and deeds that The Muses refer to when describing Hercules's ascension to 'hero status'. In pairs, the pupils will create their own acrostic poems using the word HERCULES to celebrate the heroic story of Hercules. Share the modelled example with pupils so they are clear about the outcome.

### PLENARY/REFLECTION

Explain to the pupils that poetry in Ancient Greece and the modern day is written to be spoken and performed. Ask the pupils to share their completed poems with the rest of the group and others provide constructive feedback.



The Muses in Disney's stage production of Hercules

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## POETRY

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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An acrostic poem means that the first letter of each line vertically spells out a word. In this case, the word is Hercules.

Use the space below to create your own acrostic poem about Hercules and his story.

H  
E  
R  
C  
U  
L  
E  
S

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## POETRY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

An acrostic poem means that the first letter of each line vertically spells out a word.  
In this case, the word is Hercules.

**H**ERO REMEMBERED  
FAR BEYOND GREECE,  
**E**PIC ADVENTURES TO PROVE  
HIS WORTH,  
**R**ESILIENCE SHOWN DESPITE  
TERRIFYING OBSTACLES,  
**C**OURAGE IN THE FACE OF DANGER,  
**U**NBELIEVABLE STRENGTH BOTH  
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL,  
**L**OVED BY HIS PARENTS, FRIENDS,  
THE MUSES AND MEG,  
**E**TERNAL LIFE AWAITS HIM  
ON MOUNT OLYMPUS,  
**S**ACRIFICED HIMSELF  
TO SAVE OTHERS.