

EXPLICATION

The exams and quizzes for this course will be focused on close reading of passages of **primary texts**. Primary texts are the ancient works of literature we have read. Focusing on these passages will help us appreciate the role that individual authors and their cultural context play in the creation and our understanding of myth.

Explicate the passage at the bottom of the page. Your essay **MUST** contain the following information:

Identify the **work** it's from, the **author**, the **time period**. Briefly explain what is it saying: how does it fit in with the immediate context? Briefly identify the speaker and other important characters if relevant; how does it contribute meaning to the work as a whole? Finally – what importance does it have for your general study of myth? In answering all of these questions, look closely at the **passage** you have been given and think about the **details** found in it that are particularly significant.

All papers **MUST** answer all of these questions. Outstanding papers will answer all of these questions in clear, concise, polished prose.

Each of your answers can start off like this (filling in the parentheses, of course):

“This passage from (author’s) (text) written in the (time period), indicates / demonstrates / shows us ... (something about ancient culture/mythology).” (Then elaborate in a few non-BS sentences).

PASSAGE:

“Hillbillies and bellies, poor excuse for shepherds:
We know how to tell many believable lies,
But also, when we want to, how to speak the plain truth.”
So spoke the daughters of great Zeus, mincing their words.