

The Magical Box

Task 1: Read part one of the story if you can, if you need some adult support that is fine.



The Myth of Pandora's Box

Are you nosy? Do you like secrets? Have you ever done something that you've been warned not to, just to find out a secret? All through time there have been stories about people being told not to open doors, cupboards, gates and all sorts of other things, and in many of the stories the people just didn't listen. One person who did not listen is Pandora. Her story is from Ancient Greece, where her nosiness changed the world forever!

Not hundreds but thousands of years ago, in ancient Greece, there lived two brothers called Epimetheus and Prometheus. Although they lived in a world where the gods were in charge, they liked nothing more than to annoy the gods. One day, Zeus, a particularly powerful god, decided to teach them a lesson.

Zeus ordered the gods to create a beautiful woman. Her name was Pandora and she was to marry Epimetheus. As a wedding present,

Zeus gave Pandora a beautiful box but there was one special condition, she was never to open it!

All day Pandora's husband Epimetheus was out working. All day all she could think about was what was in the box. Pandora could not understand why Zeus would give her a box that she could not open. It made no sense to her. Pandora was bored and lonely and her curiosity became unbearable.

- What do you think is in Pandora's box? Draw and write your ideas in a full sentence. Remember to use a comma to separate your ideas.



Task 2: Continue reading the story.

One day, when she was sure that Epimetheus was out annoying the gods, Pandora searched for the key to open the box. "I know it's here somewhere," she muttered to herself as she opened cupboards and drawers. There it was, high on a shelf in their bedroom! With shaking hands, Pandora slid the key into the lock and turned it. She took a deep breath, closed her eyes and slowly, with trembling hands, opened the lid of the box, imagining what could be inside: rubies as red as the blazing sunset, jewel encrusted gowns, piles of gold coins. But there were no coins or jewellery, no gowns or gems, for all at once every evil and spite, every sadness and misery flew out. Like a swarm of insects, they fled the house and infested the earth with heartache and sorrow.

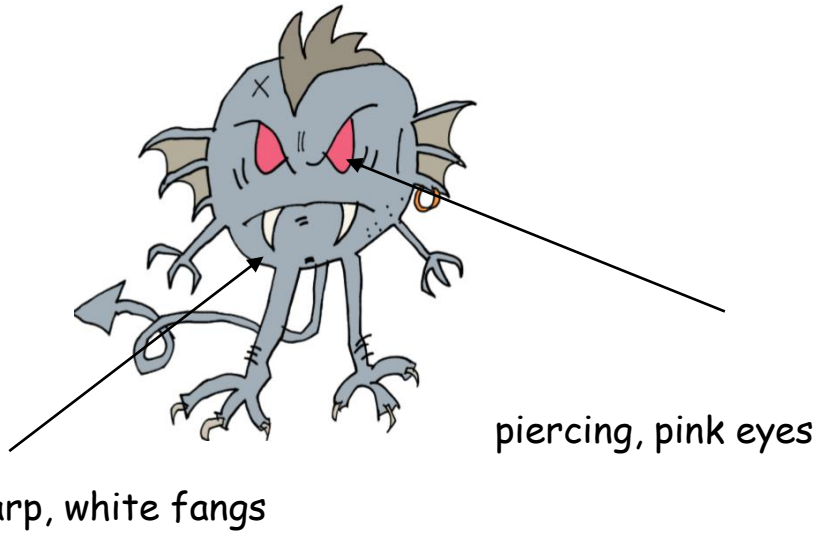
Pandora slammed the lid shut and turned the key. "What have I done?" she sobbed, holding her head in her hands. Sometime later, Pandora noticed a fluttering sound coming from the box, as if

□ Let's stop reading for a moment and think about what could be in the box. Draw or write your ideas below.

something was trapped inside. Terrified, she pressed her ear to the box. "Let me out," a small voice pleaded gently, "I mean you no harm."

Once again, with shaking hands, Pandora unlocked the box and opened the lid. A beautiful butterfly of hope fluttered out of the box, for although Pandora had released pain and suffering into the world, she had also allowed hope to follow them.

- Draw the evil that came out the box. Label it with lots of describing words. Here is an idea.

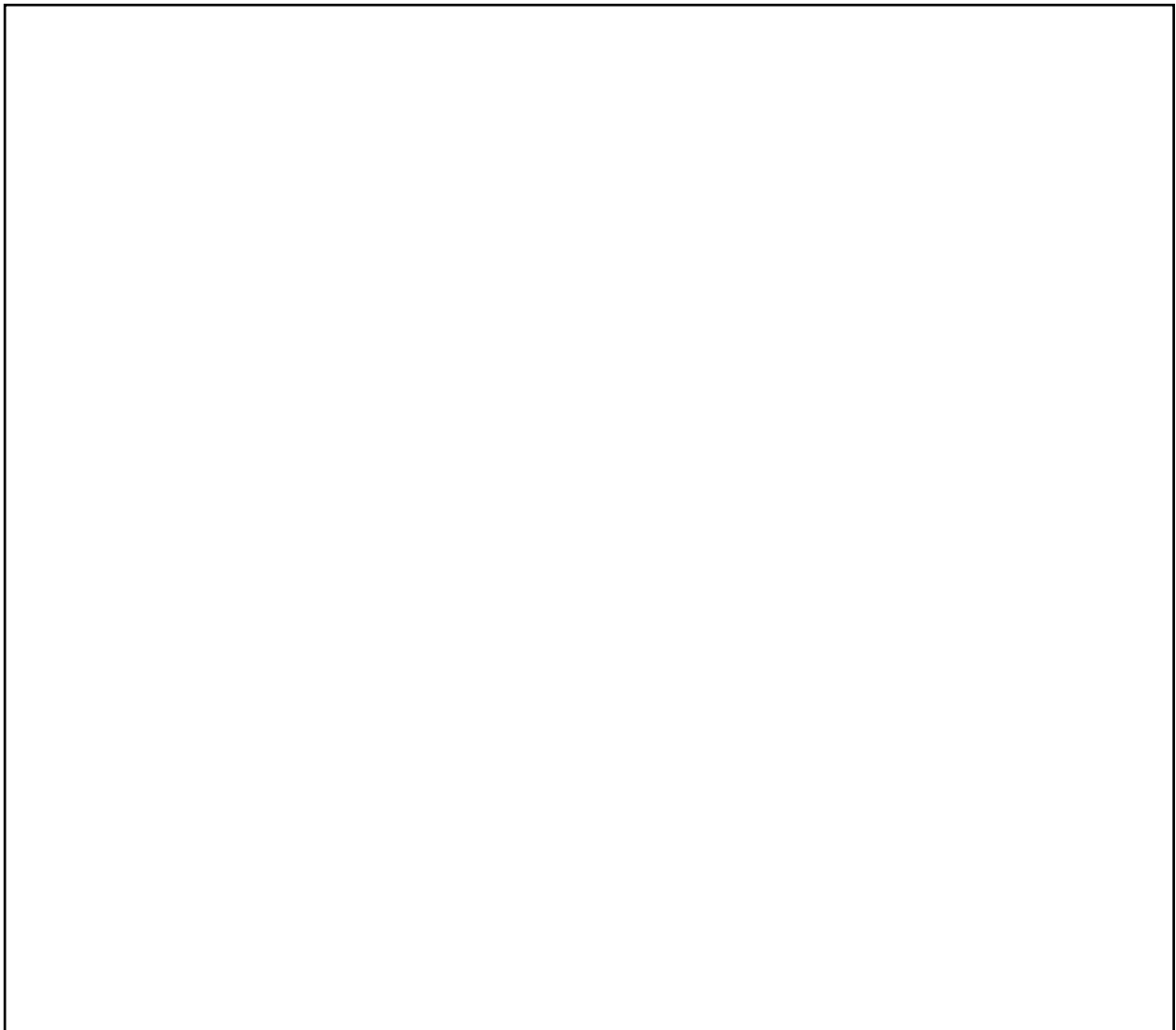


Task 3: Did you like the story? Write a review.

- What was your favourite part?
- Is there anything you didn't like?
- What age is this story suitable for/ who would enjoy the story.
- How many stars out of 5 would you give the story?

Task 4: Read the description of Zeus. Then draw him and label his features. Zeus was a sky god who controlled thunder and lightning. He was a strong, striking man with a muscular body and long, curly hair. He had a short beard and carried his trusty thunderbolt at all times.

He was also king of the gods and would sit on his golden throne at the top of Mount Olympus



Task 5: Answer each of the questions. Use the story to help you.

How did Pandora change the world forever?

- When is the story set?
- Who was in charge of the Ancient Greeks?
- What kind of character was Pandora?
- Who was Prometheus?
- What is the evil that comes out of the box compared to?
- Why do you think hope is a butterfly in the story?
- Do you like the ending of the story? Explain your answer.

Task 6:

★ It's time to get creative! Can you make a magic box?

You can:

- Find a shoe box or small box and decorate it OR
- Draw a box and decorate it

Think about:

- How you can make it magical? Perhaps it has eyes. Maybe it looks like a dragon or a witch's cottage.
- What is the theme? Perhaps it is magical creatures or places. Try to decorate it so that it fits your theme.
- Is the lid attached to the box or does it lift off completely? How are you going to decorate it?

Task 7

★ Apollo was the Greek god of knowledge. He has found these words in the story and wants to know if you can sort them out.

★ First put these words into alphabetical order:

powerful

rubies

sobbed

condition

gown

pleaded

curiosity

spite

released

unbearable

fled

hope

trembling

infested

condition

curiosity

Task 8

★ Now match the word to its meaning in the story – the first one has been done for you.

powerful

shaking slightly

condition

dress

curiosity

something that must happen

unbearable

large numbers causing damage

trembling

cruelty, upsetting

rubies

strong and confident

gown

cried

spite

asked in a begging way

fled

unpleasant, painful

infested

set free

sobbed

escaped from, ran away

pleaded

a feeling that things will go well

released

wanting to know about something

hope


red precious stones

Task 9

★ Well done! Now that you have matched the words to their meanings. Take each word and put it into a new sentence. (Don't forget to start with a capital letter and finish with a full stop.)

Example:

Pandora's curiosity became unbearable.

 Emma's curiosity got her into trouble.

Pandora's curiosity became unbearable.



Slowly, with trembling hands, she opened the box.



Like a swarm of insects they fled the house.



"What have I done?" she sobbed.



Task 10



The title of this myth has a special punctuation mark in it, called an apostrophe. Can you circle the apostrophe?

★ Circle the apostrophe: Pandora's box

An apostrophe looks like this ' and it is used to show that something belongs to someone. Pandora's box = the box belonging

★ Read these examples and then write down your own examples. Don't forget the apostrophes!

	Whose is it?
the dog's ball	The ball belonging to the dog
the man's hat	The hat belonging to the man
the car's wheel	The wheel belonging to the car