

Mythology Study Guide

Chapter 23 – Theory: The Structural Study of Myth, pp. 439-455

Define the following terms: autochthony, nonautochthony, and chthonian beings; over-rating and under-rating blood relations, synchronic and diachronic

How is Lévi-Strauss' method of studying myth labeled?

What does Lévi-Strauss consider to be the primary importance of myth?

Why does Lévi-Strauss believe religion is the field closest to mythology?

How is myth different from history according to Lévi-Strauss?

Chapter 26 – Greece: Prometheus pp. 483-489

Know the identities and relationships of the following characters with regard to this chapter: Prometheus, Pandora, Zeus, Hesiod, Aeschylus, Atlas

What is a trickster?

Define liminality

What was Prometheus' crime? How was he punished?

How are Prometheus and the Raven in American Indian myth similar?

Chapter 27 – Applying Theory: Different Versions of Myth pp. 490-498

What are literary, rationalized, and working versions of a myth?

Define irony.

What is a "family romance"?

Who is Otto Rank? What are the stages in Rank's Saga of the Hero?

How is the story of Oedipus used in the context of this chapter?