

DISCUSSION TOPICS: OVID METAMORPHOSES EXCERPTS I

Apollo and Daphne:

- As in the *Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite*, passionate love for a mortal is forced upon a deity in retaliation. Some points for comparison:
 - What is the offense that caused love to be sent as a punishment?
 - What unpleasantness does the punishing entity (Zeus/Eros) want to inflict on the afflicted deity, and how does he accomplish it?
 - How do Aphrodite and Apollo deal with their love?
 - How does it work out in the end?
- What words and images does Ovid use to describe the love of Apollo and the reluctance of Daphne?
- What feelings do love and the threat of it cause (respectively) to Apollo and Daphne?
- Apollo's making the laurel his tree: Touching, or creepy?

Io

- Jupiter exhibits all kinds of behavior here – map out his actions and why he does them. What motivates these actions? Are any of them admirable or sympathetic?
- Inachus: The story begins with Inachus longing for his daughter. How does the father-daughter relationship appear here? How does it compare to the father/daughter relationship of Peneus and Daphne?

Pan and Syrinx:

- Another running, transforming virgin. Comments?

Phaethon's death

- Here we see the results of mourning in mythic terms. Any lessons on the limits of love? Funny, touching, intimidating?

Callisto

- Throughout we've seen Juno as the revenge-seeking tormenter of young Jupiter-victims.
 - Why does she not punish Jupiter? (Or does she?)
 - What is the source of her hatred for the girls?
 - What is the effect of her villainous portrayal in the portrait of love and desire Ovid creates?