

Mythology
Reading Quiz M&L 16: Orpheus

- _____ 1. Syncretism (in religion) is (a) the bull sacrifice through which one was initiated into any of several mystery cults (b) the rituals of Cybele, Atargatis, and other Eastern deities in which ecstatic priests whipped or otherwise abused themselves (c) the "social charter" through which mystery religions are integrated into a traditional community (d) the harmonizing of different cults and their myths into some sort of unity
- _____ 2. Which is NOT true of mystery religions? (a) they require some form of initiation (b) they have a dogma and a set of rituals to be followed for happiness (c) there is a sense of reward and punishment in the afterlife (d) they are usually contained within a small geographic area
- _____ 3. Eurydice died by (a) being bitten by a snake on her wedding day (b) trying and failing to enter the underworld alive (c) being killed by jealous maenads (d) being murdered by a jealous lover
- _____ 4. Orpheus could not retrieve her from death because (a) he was unable to enter the underworld without the Sibyl's help (b) while Persephone pitied him, he could not persuade Hades to help him (c) he turned and looked at Eurydice before he had led her to the upper world (d) he was only able to bring a simulacrum of Eurydice with him, rather than Eurydice herself
- _____ 5. Which is NOT an element of the Orphic creation myth: (a) the divine infant Dionysus was devoured by the Titans (b) Phanes (Eros) was born from an egg and created everything (c) Apollo saved the heart of Dionysus from Zeus's thunderbolt (d) the first humans were planted in the ashes of the Titans and were born from trees
- _____ 6. The two gods with whom Orpheus is most closely connected are (a) Zeus and Hades (b) Dionysus and Aphrodite (c) Dionysus and Apollo (d) Apollo and Artemis
- _____ 7. Which of the following is NOT proposed by an ancient author as a reason for why Orpheus looked back while taking Eurydice out of Hades? (a) he was overcome by a sudden frenzy (b) he heard the mingled voices of the dead and was afraid Eurydice had fallen back to rejoin them (c) he wanted to make sure she was all right (d) Eurydice kept beseeching him to look at her, not understanding why he wouldn't

- _____ 8. Which location is most closely associated with Orpheus? (a) Arcadia (b) Delphi (c) Olympus (d) Thrace
- _____ 9. Zagreus is (a) another name for Hades (the place) (b) another name for Dionysus (c) the would-be rapist from whom Eurydice was fleeing when she was bitten by a snake (d) the river in which Orpheus' head floated after his death
- _____ 10. Which is NOT true of the cult of the Cabiri? (a) it was restricted to inhabitants of Asia Minor (b) it is the oldest Greek mystery cult after Eleusis (c) the Cabiri are sometimes identified with Castor and Pollux (d) the Cabiri are referred to as "the great gods"
- _____ 11. Mystery cult deity who says, "I am the mother of things in nature, the mistress of all the elements, the firstborn of the ages, the sum of the divine powers ..."
(a) Aphrodite (b) Cybele (c) Demeter (d) Isis
- _____ 12. Ovid's story of Orpheus was written in about (a) 450-400 BCE (b) 200-250 BCE (c) 125-75 BCE (d) 25 BCE-25 CE
- _____ 13. Vergil's rendition of the Orpheus and Eurydice tale was written in about (a) 450-400 BCE (b) 200-250 BCE (c) 125-75 BCE (d) 25 BCE-25 CE
- _____ 14. The Orphic hymns, as they survive now, were written in about 700-600 BCE (b) 500-400 BCE (c) 50 BCE-50 CE (d) 150-250 CE