

Mythology
Reading Quiz M&L 22 (Heracles)

- _____ 1. Which is NOT true of the birth of Heracles? (a) he was the son of Zeus (b) he had a (partly) twin brother (c) his mother was murdered just after he was born (d) his birth was delayed by Hera
- _____ 2. Which did Hera NOT do to harm Heracles? (a) delay his birth so that he would not "rule over all that dwelled around" (b) send serpents to strangle him while he was a baby (c) drive his first wife into an adulterous relationship with his cousin (d) drive him insane so that he killed his wife and children
- _____ 3. If Heracles did indeed sleep with all of Thespius' daughters in one (12-hour) night, the amount of time he had for each of them was something like: (a) 2 minutes, 30 seconds (b) 9 minutes (c) 14 minutes (d) 23 minutes
- _____ 4. Which violent thing did Heracles NOT do? (a) kill his music teacher (b) kill his wife and children (c) kill his cousin Eurystheus (d) feed Diomedes to man-eating horses
- _____ 5. Which does NOT describe Heracles' 12 labors? (a) they were performed for his cousin Eurystheus (b) the last one culminates in his ascent to Mt. Olympus (c) half of them took place in the Peloponnesus (d) they are portrayed on the sculptures of the temple of Zeus at Olympia
- _____ 6. A pareragon is: (a) a labor that Heracles did on his way to one of the official 12 (b) an opponent sent by Hera to oppose Heracles (c) the means by which Heracles came to the land of the Hesperides (d) the poison that was given to Heracles by Deianira
- _____ 7. For what offense (in most versions) did Heracles have to serve Eurystheus for twelve years, during which he performed the twelve labors? (a) he had insulted Hera (b) he had tried to rob Eurystheus of his kingship (c) he had lied about his parentage (d) he had killed his wife and children in a mad rage
- _____ 8. What is the Greek word for "contest" or "labor"? (a) Athlon (b) Nessus (c) Omphale (d) Pareragon
- _____ 9. Which is NOT true of the labor of the Lernean Hydra? (a) The hydra grew new heads every time Heracles cut one off (b) Hera sent a crab to bite his foot when he was battling the hydra (c) Athena weakened the hydra with poison so he could defeat it (d) his nephew Iolaus helped him

- _____ 10. Heracles spared the lives of the Cercopes, two mischievous dwarfs, because: (a) he didn't have the heart to kill opponents he had defeated so easily (b) they made fun of his sunburnt behind and made him laugh (c) Zeus had commanded him to let them go (d) he found out that they were, in fact, his cousins
- _____ 11. Heracles missed the Argonaut expedition because: (a) he fell asleep, and when he awoke Jason had already set sail (b) he was afraid of sea travel (c) Hera's curse made the Argonauts reject his company (d) he lost track of time searching for his beloved Hylas
- _____ 12. Nessus was: (a) a dragon killed by Heracles (b) one of Heracles' companions on the voyage of the Argonauts (c) a centaur who plotted Heracles' death (d) a servant of Heracles
- _____ 13. Which of the following caused Heracles' "death"? (a) he had killed Hera's son, so she struck him dead herself (b) he had attempted to battle Apollo, and Zeus struck him with his thunderbolt (c) he was engulfed in flames from a blood-soaked robe and then burned on a pyre (d) he had tried to battle Hades himself and lost
- _____ 14. Which is NOT true of the story of Alcestis? (a) Heracles battles Death and wins the right to bring her back from the dead (b) Heracles used the knowledge Tiresias had given him to determine how she had died and how to save her (c) Alcestis had willingly died to allow her husband Admetus to live (d) Euripides wrote a play that describes her redemption from Hades
- _____ 15. Which is NOT true of the Heraclidae? (a) the story of their return explains the origins of the Dorian people of the Peloponnesus (b) they are the descendants of Heracles by his (Peloponnesian) wife Megara (c) their victories are secured through astute interpretation of oracles (d) Heracles' son Hyllus was killed early on, though his allies and descendants ultimately prevailed
- _____ 16. Omphale was: (a) one of the Amazons (b) the woman to whom Heracles was sold as a slave for one year (c) the nymph who told Heracles how to chase off the Stymphalian birds (d) Heracles' first wife
- _____ 17. Iole was: (a) a woman with whom Heracles fell in love (b) a boy who was raised as a girl (c) a nine-headed serpent (d) the mother of Iolaus
- _____ 18. Heracles means: (a) the fame of Hera (b) the enemy of Hera (c) the child of Hera (d) the destruction of Hera