

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Myth of Arachne and Athena

In the rich tapestry of Greek mythology, the tale of Arachne and Athena weaves a story of hubris, rivalry, and transformation. Arachne, a mortal woman, possessed an extraordinary talent for weaving, and she was renowned for her intricate and beautiful tapestries. Her fame soon spread, and people came from far and wide to admire her artistry.

Arachne's remarkable skill led her to fame, but it also led to arrogance. She began to boast that her weaving surpassed even that of Athena, the goddess of wisdom and crafts. Her hubris did not go unnoticed by the divine realm, and Athena, disguised as an old woman, approached Arachne to caution her against challenging the gods.

However, Arachne, consumed by pride, refused to heed the warning. Instead, she challenged Athena to a weaving contest. The goddess accepted the challenge, revealing her true identity. The contest took place, with both Arachne and Athena creating stunning tapestries, each depicting the gods' tales and the mortals' folly.

When the contest concluded, the tapestries were compared, and the result was clear: both works were masterpieces. But Athena's tapestry depicted the gods with wisdom and reverence, while Arachne's portrayed them as foolish and undignified. Enraged by Arachne's insolence, Athena tore her rival's tapestry to shreds and touched Arachne's forehead, filling her with guilt and shame.

Arachne, overcome with sorrow and humiliation, tried to escape her feelings by hanging herself. However, Athena took pity on her and transformed Arachne into a spider, allowing her to continue weaving her intricate designs for all time.