



Student Activities

Activity 1: Summary Notes

Create a chapter-by-chapter summary of the set text (including sections to be read in English); the first two have been done for you. This is designed to help you remember the overall sense of the story in preparation for the essay question. (Nb. The sections to be read in Latin are in bold.)

Chapter	Summary
4.28	Introduction: Psyche is so beautiful, people pray to her as if she's Venus.
4.29	Worship of Venus is neglected because of Psyche; Venus is enraged.
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Activity 3: Contextual Research.

Research (using the further reading or the web resources suggested in the further online content) one of the following topics; produce a poster summarizing the relevant information. As Apuleius is often a vivid, visual author, try to include images of art, architecture, or archaeological remains which help bring aspects of the *Metamorphoses* to life. Some suggested avenues to pursue are suggested.

- 1) The cult of Isis in the Roman Empire.
 - The temple of Isis in Pompeii
 - Isiac processions and iconography
 - Themes of mystery, death and rebirth.
- 2) Visual depictions of Cupid and Psyche.
 - Images pre-dating Apuleius
 - The connection of Cupid and Psyche to funeral imagery
 - The reception of Apuleius' story in later art.
- 3) Oratory and the Second Sophistic.
 - Apuleius' other (rhetorical) works
 - The spaces of oratory: the forum and the gymnasium (Rome and Pompeii)
 - Philostratus, *Lives of the Sophists*
- 4) Philosophy in the Roman world.
 - Plato's *Phaedrus*
 - Allegorical reading
 - Roman belief in life after death

**Activity 4: Class Debate**

‘Psyche is solely responsible for her own downfall’.

Divide the class into two teams; the following table may be useful, but evidence needs to be found from the text to support each argument!

<i>Proposition</i>	<i>Opposition</i>
Psyche’s curiosity is a vice which leads to her downfall	Psyche’s sisters are wicked and more responsible than Psyche herself.
Psyche was warned specifically about what she shouldn’t do, but ignores the advice	Psyche’s naivete and innocence is not her own fault.
Her sister’s lies should have been unconvincing – Psyche already knew enough, if she had thought about it, to know they were lying.	The whole scenario has been created by Venus out of jealousy – she is the one to blame.
The whole point of the story is a moral fable about not grasping beyond what we have – the tale would lose its force if Psyche wasn’t to blame.	Cupid should bear more responsibility: it is his attempt to have his cake and eat it that leads to Psyche’s downfall.