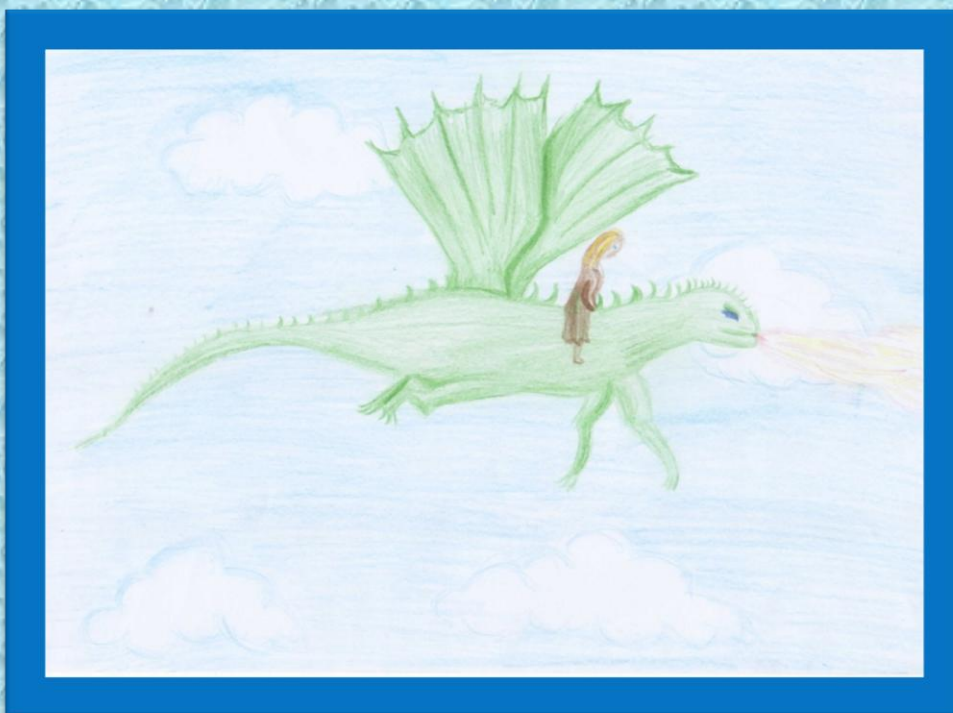


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OUR COMMON MYTH

- methodological approaches -



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Erasmus+

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Approaches to the European Folk Myths and Legends”
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWARD	1
Chapter 1 – OUR COMMON MYTH – the story	3
Chapter 2 – METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES	19
WORKSHEET 1 – Pre-reading activity	19
WORKSHEET 2 – Pre-reading activity	23
WORKSHEET 3 – While-reading activity	26
WORKSHEET 4 – While-reading activity	30
WORKSHEET 5 – While-reading activity	33
WORKSHEET 6 – Language	36
WORKSHEET 7 – Language, Word Formation, Vocabulary	38
WORKSHEET 8 – After-reading activity	41
WORKSHEET 9 – After-reading activity	44

FOREWARD

The current publication has been made possible due to the Erasmus+ project “From MYTHOS to LOGOS. Educational Approaches to the European Folk Myths and Legends” (reference number 2018-1-EL01-KA229-047701, Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – School Exchange Partnerships), implemented by the following schools:

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within the time framework September 1st, 2018 – August 31st, 2021.

These methodological approaches to the story “Our Common Myth” represent the end-up product of the collaborative work among the students and teachers in the six partner institutions. The schools organised sessions in which the students became familiarised with the Greek myth of Europe and were then invited to imagine a “sequel” with new adventures taking place in the six countries involved in the project. Each school contributed with writing one sequence (about their own country) and the story unfolded as the text was passed on from one school to the next. Each team had to encompass in their writing a list of commonly agreed upon key-words and concepts (freedom, tolerance, respect, wisdom, travelling), as well as some representative national symbols present in their own mythology, while giving new life and shape to the classic myth of Europe.

The worksheets based on the story “Our Common Myth” were created and used for the activities of the international teams

attending the mobility in Portugal (May 2019). They were designed to make the most of the story as reading practice, with pre-reading, while-reading and after-reading activities. The publication suggests a plethora of types of exercises, such as fill-in, unscrambling, multiple choice, cloze, true/false and many others. The readers find their general knowledge challenged as they scan or skim the text for interdisciplinary information from literature (mythology), geography, history and arts.

As a result, the publication provides a type of extracurricular auxiliary that may be used during the classes, either for the study of certain compulsory subjects or for optional subjects implemented by schools as part of their curriculum.



Chapter 1

Our Common Myth

– the story –

It was late in the afternoon and she was sitting on the beach, looking at the mountains in the distance.

"How did my life turn out to be?", she wondered.

Her parents' faces appeared in front of her, as well as the faces of two of her friends. Stress about the exams, plans for the future things which occupy the mind of a young girl.

She was still trying to understand what had happened, how and when.

Suddenly, in the chaos of her thoughts, she felt a hand touching her shoulder. She turned around and saw a girl, beautiful and young.

"You look lost and troubled. What's on your mind?", the girl asked.

"Who are you? What do you want?" she replied.

"My name is Ariadne. Do not care about the rest. Tell me your name and the problem that you have".

"My name is Europe. I have come from far away. The war forced me to leave home, to abandon the ones I love. I have nothing, I have lost everything. Only my thoughts keep me company".

"Poor girl! What a misfortune! What are you going to do now?"

"I don't know, but I won't stay in Greece long. I want to make a new beginning, to find out new things, to live".

"You are right to be upset, but life goes on. I will help you find your next destination".

While she was saying those words, she brought a box. It was old and the wood was moth-eaten.

"What's this?", Europe asked.

"This box will help you find your way. But be careful! The fortunes and the misfortunes of your course are up to you". And with these words Ariadne disappeared.

Europe left the box on the ground and looked at it with doubt and wonder. She opened it slowly feeling scared and hesitant. Three unusual objects were in it.

The first one was an animal horn with fruit. She thought it was strange and asked herself what it could be. She searched deeply into her memory and then it came to her! "Yes, why didn't I think about it?" she said. It was the horn of Amaltheia (the horn of plenty) from the Greek Mythology, so she wouldn't have to worry about food. She had been taught that at school. "But what's this thing doing here?" she goes on to find a beautiful pair of winged sandals. She would be able to go wherever she wanted with them like the messenger god Hermes. Finally, there was a necklace at the bottom of the box.

The chain and the owl on it were rusted with no value. What was she supposed to do with it? It was not useful compared to the other objects. Europe started thinking. Which was the most suitable one? Certainly not the last one. Ariadne's warning came to her mind. She was undecided.

"If these objects are related to the Greek Mythology, then what could the third one represent?" she wondered.

"An owl... The symbol of goddess Athena is an owl!" She instinctively grabbed it in her hand. She felt it opening. A small piece of paper fell on the ground. She read it full of curiosity.

"A trough saved them, they were found under a fig-tree, a female wolf fed them, a woodpecker raised them".

At first, she didn't understand anything. She threw the piece of paper on the ground angrily. She lay down and closed her eyes. She didn't know how long she stayed there. Then, she suddenly stood up. A

feeling of joy overwhelmed her. Why didn't she think about it sooner?

The next morning found her on a ship sailing for Italy. The wind was gently moving her hair. The sun was shining above. Deep in her heart, Europe had a dream: she desired to be the Mother of a new land. Suddenly, she felt that someone was behind her. She turned quickly. A man was standing there. His eyes were beautiful and blue, like the sea around them.

"Don't be frightened", he said. "This is my ship. My name is Aeneas." She felt safe. "And this is my son, Ascanio. We are here sailing for a new land, together". His voice was deep, like his love for his boy.

The wind was getting stronger and stronger. A stormy rain started falling on their bodies. Soon a tempest shook the ship. The voice of Poseidon came from beneath the sea, threatening them. Aeneas, Ascanio and Europe feared for their lives. Where were they going? They had no control of the ship. After endless time, they could finally see a coastline.

"There!", Ascanio shouted. The ship was going towards a new land.

Dido, a charming lady, was waiting for them on the shore. She gave them a warm and dry shelter. The three survivors thanked the gentle lady sincerely.

"You saved our lives", Europe told her gratefully. "Who are you?".

"I am Dido, Queen of Carthage. You are in Africa. You can stay here as long as you wish".

She stared at Aeneas, they seemed magically and lovingly attracted. "Please, have some rest. You must be very tired", Dido said. "Your rooms are ready".

Europe felt her eyes heavy and fell into a deep sleep. During the night, a sudden noise woke Europe up. In the darkness, she could only

see the little flame of a candle. "Who's there?" she shouted. "It's only me, sweet Europe", Dido whispered. "Don't worry, I only want to give you a precious gift. Here, take it."

What could it be? Dido was offering Europe a magic compass. "Go, Europe, go. Follow your dream. You can't get lost now, your Dreamland is waiting for you. Find it! But leave me Aeneas. I can't live without him".

The following morning Europe found Aeneas and Ascanio on the boat, waiting for her. Aeneas' eyes were sad, but Zeus had shouted at him during the night, in his dreams: "Don't stop, Aeneas, you must go!" The tears of Dido were falling like rain. The ship was sailing far away from her. The magic compass was leading them to the promised land.

After some time, they could finally see a new coastline. Suddenly a very dazzling light sparkled from Europe's necklace! It was so radiant! Strange images came out of the ray in the sky. Was it a sign from the gods?

There, in front of her eyes, was the life of Romulus and Remo, descendants of Aeneas and Ascanio, and future founders of Rome. Europe was amazed. She wondered if Rome was the place, her dreamland, the start of a new Continent. She turned. Aeneas was there. He understood.

"Rome is my land, beautiful Europe. Don't stop here. There's more for you. Here's my gift for you: I give you Pietas, a feeling of respect for life and for mankind. Keep it in your heart. You need it, Europe". And suddenly a last sparkle came out of the necklace: a huge bold dragon appeared in the sky, in a red fire cloud.

"Go to Krakow, Europe. Fight the evil. We must live in peace and brotherhood, in Pietas. My destiny is here. Take my ship, Europe, and go". And a beautiful shining star crossed down the sky.

Europe was thoughtful. "Go to Krakow. Fight evil!" These words

were sounding in her mind constantly. She had heard this name before. Merchants wandering north were talking about a beautiful city.

She went to the market, where precious stones were sold. Each of them had its own secret. Tradesmen didn't know much about this severe country. It was said that good people lived there.

"What are you looking for, my beauty?" – a young man bowed to Europe, giving her a mysterious ring. It differed from those she used to know. When she put it on her graceful finger, she felt an unusual warmth and amazing power, hidden in amber. She just knew her way.

She gathered together her little belongings quickly and put male clothes on. She joined a merchant's caravan. After many days of journey they saw a splendid hill and a castle. A wonderful river was winding at the base of the hill. However it was quiet. It could announce some danger.

"I'm grateful for everything," the girl said to her travel companions and she moved on a borough, clutching pietas in her hand. It was to bring her safety, happiness and protect her life.

Suddenly she stumbled but a handsome young man saved her from falling down. His eyes had an amazing brightness and his strong arms were holding scared Europe. She gave the young man a hug and he whispered his name to her ear. "My name is Dratewka, the shoemaker. Who are you?" She didn't answer although she wanted to stay in his arms longer. She smiled and went on. The boy followed her.

She stopped in front of the city gate. She noticed a crying woman. A girl was held by a strong man standing next to the woman. Europe understood that something wrong would happen in a moment. She knew this kind of situation because she had heard many times about sacrificing people. Abruptly there was a shadow above attendees' heads. A horrible roar shook the air. When people gathered in the square raised their heads, they saw a dragon. Europe stood in front of the girl. She wanted

to protect this girl with her own body. She held the coin in her hand. In the sun the ring glittered of a golden light. The monster hesitated and started to breathe fire. But it was obvious that the dragon was astonished.

A fragile and beautiful person who wanted to give her life for an unknown girl was standing on its way. An old law says that bravery, innocence and justice could save a convict's life. The dragon couldn't believe what he had seen. Its heart started beating faster and stronger. It seemed that ice which had incarcerated it for ages had started to melt. "Love is able to defeat evil!" the unusual thought appeared in its mind.

The dragon decided to talk to this brave woman.

"What's your name?" it asked. "Where are you from? You are wearing different attires from the inhabitants of this borough".

"My name is Europe. I come from Greece. I have been wandering throughout the world. I want everybody not only to meet me but to know me as well. We are one family. Friendship, respect to the others, striving for freedom will join us. Some day wisdom will win and peace will rule in our world".

A crowd listened to a bugle call at noon and started to cheer. They had both a feast and great fun. Europe was observing the dancers. She recognized one of them. He was teaching the dwellers of the king Krak's borough a special dance called 'the dance of a crane' (the famous geranus). She smiled to herself because she got knowledge that the Hellenic culture had reached the far country of the north.

She understood that her mission was not finished yet. She had to continue her travel. After meeting the dragon she was sure it would hurt nobody again. In her mind's eye she saw it standing as a monument at the Vistula river bank many ages later. It would be the entertainment for children who visited and admired it.

In the meantime the dragon was sitting at the city gate. To her

surprise it was ready to go. *At happy Europe realized that it was waiting for her and it would bring her to a country at the ocean. On this land a black rooster is a symbol of justice which wins if you fight for it!*

"Stop, dear flying companion! Let us see what is going on there!"

Ats Europe arrived at the country by the ocean on the back of the dragon, she saw a huge crowd at the center of a small town. There was a great commotion and spirits were running high.

"Stop, dear flying companion! Let us see what is going on there!"

The dragon landed and Europe approached the crowd.

"What is going on?"

One of the men started to shout: "A criminal is going to be hanged!" Europe's face whitened with disbelief. "How can you do that?" Ats she was turning to speak with the dragon, from the corner of her eye, she saw a man running towards the square where they were standing.

From his look, you could see he was a man of privilege. But what made Europe smile was what came out of his mouth: "Let him free! The rooster has sung!"

There was a great buzz on the crowd and Europe saw the man holding a black rooster on his hands, running towards the gallows and shouting to have the man set free. The rooster looked magnificent to Europe's eyes: the black feathers shone as the sun hit them and there were some colorful glimpses on the rooster's head and tail. Ats she saw the man being set loose, Europe started to smile and saw that the rooster was looking at her with bewildered eyes.

"You are not from around here, are you, beautiful lady?"

"We are traveling across our common land to bring people together no matter what their differences are. We want a new land where virtuousness and justice rule and intolerance and disrespect become extinct. Can you help us?"

"I most certainly can...but we can't do this by ourselves..."

The dragon's strong voice was heard from behind Europe: "What do you mean? The three of us are not enough...?"

"My beautiful lady, strong dragon, our qualities are excellent by themselves; however, they are not enough to achieve what you are aiming for... But I know who can help us if you are willing to travel some more, of course!"

"Of course! Tell us where to go!"

"Dragon, you are going to take us to another place, a beautiful town called Aveiro, filled with water canals and close to the sea. There we will meet a mysterious old lady with magical powers who I believe can help us in our quest!"

Europe sat on the dragon's back and the rooster jumped onto her lap. The three friends flew south to Aveiro.

After a long flight, they reached Aveiro. The canals were filled with boats that rode back and forth carrying weeds from the water to the rural fields nearby. Europe felt in awe as she saw the city. It was beautiful and the people seemed very generous, kind and hardworking. She felt confident that she would find the answer to her problem in this city. But they still had to find the old lady that the rooster talked about. The rooster had called her mysterious and magical. What did he mean by that? She would have to see with her own eyes...

The rooster soon told them where to go. "We have to fly a little further west, close to the ocean. "The old lady we have to see lives there."

They could see the crystal clear water beneath their feet and, as they breathed, they could feel the smell of the salty fields they were flying past. When they reached the sandy beach area, they stopped to find the old lady's house. There were very pretty, striped houses all around them. Did the old lady live in one of them?

"Come, my friends! She doesn't live in any of these houses. Hers is right around that corner over there," and the rooster pointed to a large

green part of the area, where they could see a very simple, brown wooden house.

When they got to the house, they didn't even have to knock on the door as it opened before them. They heard a hoarse calm voice inside.

"Come in! Tell me what you wish from me". Europe went in and she saw the old lady sitting by the fireplace, rocking back and forth, waiting for her and her friends. The old lady looked like any grandmother, with a touch of tenderness in her eyes, which expressed serenity as you looked deep into them. Europe felt relaxed as she got closer to the old lady and sat on a stool right next to her. She felt like she could confide on her all her deepest secrets and wishes, and so she did.

She told the old lady all her adventures since leaving Greece, how she had traveled to Italy, how she had met the dragon in Poland and how she had met the black rooster. The old lady never said a word, only nodding her head in approval as she listened to what Europe was telling her. Finally, her voice was heard. "My fair lady, your goal is pure and beautiful; yet, you must know how hard it is to achieve what you have proposed yourself to do. There are forces that don't want that to happen, that want conflicts to persist. I can help you, but you need to stay strong and keep on fighting for justice and virtue all the time.

This is what you have to do: you have to find my friend Ramiro. He is a fisherman and he has built a very special boat with a long arched bow. You have to convince him to let you ride his boat until you find a striped house in the middle of an island on the lagoon. On that house, you will find your answer. If Ramiro shows reluctance, just tell him that, by helping you, he might be able to see his mermaid again."

Europe left the house with a puzzled look. Both the dragon and the rooster waited for her outside; they were not pleased with the look on her face. She told them what the old lady had told her to do and they started their journey to the waterfront where they saw a boat which was different

from the others.

There was a young fisherman with a sad look working inside and Europe told him what the old lady had told her to say. His eyes started to shine as he heard about his beloved mermaid and they started their journey to the island where they saw the house the old lady had described. It was empty and when they set foot on the island, Ramiro started asking about the mermaid.

"Wait, Ramiro! She will come!"

They entered the house and started looking everywhere. They could see nothing until a moon ray illuminated a piece of the wall in front of them and they started reading the following lines:

Your heart is pure and right

What you seek is good

But to win this fight

Find the wolf in the wood!

Europe and her friends looked at the inscription on the wall with puzzled eyes... "The wolf on the wood? What did that mean, there were no woods around there..."

They looked at each other and went out of the house and into Ramiro's boat. Ramiro looked more frustrated because he still had no glimpse of his beloved mermaid. He took them back to the old lady's house and they saw her waiting for them at the door. "Did you read the inscription?" They all nodded. "But we can't understand what it means!" The old lady looked at them and pointed towards East. "You have to fly that way, my friends! The wood and the wolf you are looking for are on that direction." Europe warmly hugged the old lady, thanked her for her help, grabbed the rooster and sat on the dragon's back. "My dear dragon, let us fly east then! Let us find the wolf in the wood!" As they looked towards Ramiro to thank him, they saw a shadow at the back. "Ramiro, what is that behind you?" Ramiro looked back and his eyes

shone with happiness as he could see the mermaid once again. He rode his boat towards the mermaid as the three friends flew east...

Now they were on a new land, unknown to them.

"Where are we?", asked the rooster.

"I have no idea...", Europe responded softly.

"Maybe we'll find out soon."

On their way to nowhere, they suddenly felt something drawing near. When they looked up, they saw an awfully frightening three-headed dragon.

"Oh, no!", Europe's dragon cried out. "He's one of my brothers. Unfortunately, he's done a lot of bad deeds and harm because he's always been envious of the other dragons. As a result, our father cursed him to be the bearer of two more heads, as a sort of punishment."

"What should we do now? We don't even know where we are!", Europe said.

"You need to cut off the two heads. Only the head that will be left will agree to help us find the answers. The second head keeps on telling lies, while the third one keeps spitting fire. So you have to be careful!"

But how could they fight the three-headed dragon?

"My dear Europe, let me help you", said the dragon removing one of its claws.

"Here you are. This is going to be your weapon."

Europe, the dragon and the rooster tried to get closer to the three-headed dragon and Europe managed to cut off the head that was telling lies, while the rooster did the same with the spitting-fire one. Now there was only one head left...

"Where are we and what do we have to do in order to find the wolf in the woods?" Europe shouted, in a threatening voice.

"Not far from here, there is a cave. There, you will find two pieces of fire. One is red, while the other one is yellow. You have to find the

third piece, which is blue. That will help you find the wolf. I can't reveal more..." And with these words, the last head died...

"Wait a minute! One piece is red, the other one is yellow and we need to find another one that is blue... We are in Romania, aren't we?" said the rooster. And so the rooster and Furope jumped onto the dragon's back and off they flew, until they reached the cave. No sooner had they entered than their eyes spotted the two pieces of fire. But still, Furope had no idea how to find what they were looking for.

"Do you know what my mother used to tell me?", the rooster asked. "If you can't find your way, let the flowers guide you."

As soon as the rooster finished his words, a sunflower appeared out of nowhere. The rooster whispered to the petals: "Oh, beautiful, sweet flower, please help us find the blue fire!"

"A sunflower won't help you if you whisper some words!" said the dragon.

All of a sudden, the sunflower turned into a beautiful lady dressed in golden clothes.

"Are you sure?" asked the rooster, smiling to the dragon.

"Welcome to the land of Romania, my dear guests! I am the Sunflower Queen. What brings you three here?"

"My name is Furope and we've traveled a very long way. We are in search of the blue fire."

"Oh! The blue fire from the white wolf's eyes...", muttered the Sunflower Queen.

"That's it! That is the wolf we've heard about!", cried the dragon.

"If you want to find the wolf, you have to travel to the Carpathians. As soon as he feels your presence, the wolf will come by himself.

All you need to do is give him some pure water to drink." And the Sunflower Queen gave Furope a silver bottle.

So the three heroes continued their adventure and went to the

Carpathian mountains. The view was absolutely stunning... In the horizon they could see a white wolf getting closer step by step. Europe approached gently, spread her hands in which she was holding the pure water. The wolf had a sip and then looked into Europe's eyes with his ocean-bright blue eyes.

"I know who you are, my dear Europe. You've come here for the blue fire!"

As the wolf was looking Europe straight in the eyes, she felt her hands fill with blue fire instead of the pure water. And now, the wolf's eyes became dark again.

The three friends went back to the cave and brought the blue fire with them.

"And now? Where are we heading for?"

In the middle of the three pieces of fire, a shining portal opened. The Sunflower Queen looked at them and said, with her warm voice:

"Go to Lithuania and find the other wolf. He'll help you find the answers you are looking for. Take the three pieces of fire with you, but be careful! Sometimes light can hide dark secrets. Nothing is what it seems to be!"

Europe, Rooster and Dragon had been flying high in the sky for three days and nights when finally in the distance they saw green fields and forests. They landed safely on the coast of the Baltic sea and started looking around timidly. There was a little hill among the pines and sands where three old ladies were sitting.

"Let's ask the way", suggested the Rooster, but Europe wasn't so sure about the idea, she was still doubting. As the three travelers were all alone, they didn't have any choice, so they went towards the ladies.

Newcomers were surrounded quickly by the old ladies. The old women had a lot of questions to them.

"Why did you come here? Where were you from?"

Europe, Rooster and Dragon understood that they got into serious trouble. It appeared that those ladies were witches. They were having a ball on the hill and waiting for the new victims. Witches decided to have fun and turned Europe, Rooster and Dragon into stones. Europe could feel everything, but she couldn't move or even say a word. She felt sad and desperate that all their dreams didn't come true and goals failed. They had spent all night in such a hopeless condition. The wind was blowing strongly and the trees were tending to the ground.

Luckily, early in the morning the goddess Fortune went past the stones. She felt pity of Europe, Rooster and Dragon, so she made them alive again.

"What kind of gratitude do you want for our saving?" asked Dragon.

"My life's goal is to do good jobs, help everyone who is in need, guard those who are offended and hurt. What are you looking for in Lithuania?" wanted to know the goddess Fortune.

"We are looking for Wolf, but we even don't know where he lives exactly" Europe said sadly.

"Fly to a very special place, the Hill of Crosses. There is a numerous amount of crosses from the tiniest till the biggest ones. This place is a little bit scary and magical at the same time. People believe that wishes come true there. I hope your wish will also come true and you will succeed" wished goddess Fortune.

After a few minutes, Europe and Rooster were flying on Dragon's back. Nearby the city of Šiauliai they saw a little hill which was full of tiny and big crosses. When they landed, travelers understood that this place was really very special.

A little bit aside there was sitting an old grey-haired man with a huge stick.

Europe told him all the history of their traveling and asked if he knew

and could advice them where Europe, Rooster and Dragon should move further.

"Your mission is very interesting and important. But if you want to find the Wolf, you will have to fly further till you find a river and beside it there will be a hill full of tall trees. On that hill there is the Wolf that you are looking for", explained in detail the old man.

The hill could be seen from far by the travelers. The Iron Wolf was there. Europe was very excited and happy because she understood that their journey was not in vain.

They found out that Iron Wolf had been waiting for them. They greeted each other as old, good friends despite the fact that Europe, Rooster, Dragon and Wolf had seen each other for the first time.

"Friends, I have to go with you. Our mission is to bring friendship, respect and tolerance to the whole world. It is a very difficult task but we will be persistent and brave, we will achieve success", told wisely Iron Wolf.

Then Europe understood that her travels would never end.

Europe, Rooster, Dragon and Wolf started their journey back to Greece.

After a long journey riding, they finally reached the borders of Greece. Being certain of Europe's survival, her three friends flew back to their countries.

Europe was now full of wisdom, power and confidence. She was ready to put her trust back into people again and fight for justice and tolerance towards the unknown and the different. She afterwards decided that her final destination ought to be her homeland... "I can now return home and pass my new experiences to my people who have suffered so much from the war. I can finally give them a plank to hold and resurrect the thirst for making a new start filled and empowered by the values and the ideals of my journey".

She put out of her back the winged sandals she had received from Ariadne, she wore them and flew towards the blue sky and the far away horizon. She now had a goal and a dream. Her journey had just begun.



Chaper 2: Methodological Approaches

WORKSHEET 1

Pre-reading Activity 1

The story that you are about to read narrates a journey of self-discovery, from despair to hope

Europe, the main character, goes on this long journey trying to find a meaning to her life. Meanwhile she gets to know some new lands, different customs, languages, cultures and also some new and special friends. Throughout this journey, Europe and her friends work together in order to overcome different obstacles that a long sea journey offers to those who dare to embark on

A. Who is the most likely character to be the hero/heroine of this story? Why?

B. Look at the adjectives below and circle the ones that, in your opinion, are the most adequate to describe a hero:

brave	careful	confident	coward
fearless	rude	selfish	weak

Justify your choice.

**C. Find the following adjectives in the word grid below:
brave/lost/friendly/smart/confused**

W	R	S	B	I	R	U	A	C
Q	S	E	R	R	I	O	U	O
J	S	M	A	R	T	V	U	N
Q	Z	D	V	K	Ç	R	X	F
F	R	I	E	N	D	L	Y	U
O	I	S	Y	W	L	O	U	S
L	F	S	O	A	E	S	H	E
Q	J	F	Q	S	L	T	L	D
I	H	I	E	S	H	Y	N	M

D. Choose the right answer (x) to complete the sentence below:

Europe goes on this journey trying to...

- ☐ ... find her lost family.
- ☐ ... find a meaning to her life.
- ☐ ... make friends.

E. Match the countries with the correct continents.

1. Denmark

2. South Korea

3. Ukraine

4. Slovenia

5. China

6. Bangladesh

7. Hungary

A. Europe

B. Asia

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____


5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

F. Imagine and draw how you think the friends Europe is going to meet look like:

Friend 1	Friend 2	Friend 3



WORKSHEET 2

Pre-reading Activity 2

The story that you are about to read narrates a journey of self-discovery, from despair to hope

Europe, the main character, goes on this long journey trying to find a meaning to her life. Meanwhile she gets to know some new lands, different customs, languages, cultures and also some new and special friends. Throughout this journey, Europe and her friends work together in order to overcome different obstacles that a long sea journey offers to those who dare to embark on

A. Europe goes on a long journey in this narrative. Imagine you are Europe and you are describing a part of your journey. How have you been travelling? What do you see? What emotions are you experiencing? What kind of people have you encountered?

B. What type of scenery do you imagine Europe encounters during her journey: a desert, a rainforest or a wild wood? Justify your answer.

C. A “long journey” often means it takes a long time from start to finish. If you were Europe, would you prefer to travel during the night or during the day? Why?

D. The word “journey” is associated with travelling. Find six more words related to travelling in the word box below:

FSKUJERYVXPLOTRAVELKJNGFRYO
CHGTUDFBNMJKLPTSRSEWQASFYH
MRBFRETYUIOPSWERTYHJKLMNFA
KLFUOLRTYHGHEDPQWESASD RIDE
NBVCIKMIUUYTTREWQASSDFGHJKL
NASDESEWQRTYUUIOPÇLKJHGFDSA
ZXCVBBEQWERTYUIOPASDFGHJKLÇ
ZXC VBNMQWERTYUIOPASDFGHJKL
FLIGHTYUIOPASDFGHJKLZXCVBNM
QWERTYUIOPAZSXDCFVOYAGEVTG
TBYHNUJMIKOLPZSEFBHUIKLPQSC
RFTMHMKOÇZAWDVG YJMKOPLMNGR
IDZXDWASCFTGBHUJMKOLPOIUYT
PRDXSQAWDVG YHNJIKOLPOKMJUY

E. Imagine that Europe has to pack for this “long journey”. Which object(s) do you think would be essential in such a journey? Justify your choice.

F. The text below describes a short part of Europe's journey. There are some gaps in the text. Complete them using the words you found in exercise D.

Europe's journey from Greece and back, going through five other countries is also a v_____ of values and emotions. She goes on a c_____ (more or less) to Italy, she takes a r_____ from a Polish dragon, which helps her in her f_____ around the European continent and she meets many different and interesting characters. All of them help her in her t_____ to find new values to build a new land, a land where no t_____ is meaningless or pointless.



WORKSHEET 3

While Reading Activity 1: Parts 1 and 2

Read the first two parts of this story and do the tasks below.

A. Choose the correct option to answer or to complete the questions below:

1. What was Europe's dream?

- to have a boyfriend
- to be the Mother of new Land
- to be able to fly
- to marry Dido

2. Romulus and Remo are the descendants of...

- ... Poseidon and Zeus
- ... Dido and Europe
- ... Aeneas and Ascanio
- ... Hermes and Athena

3. The objects in the box are going to help Europe...

- ... find the way to Dreamland
- ... become prettier
- ... find the way to Poland
- ... get rich

4. Dido was crying because...

- ... she lost her compass
- ... she broke her leg
- ... Ascanio was leaving
- ... Ascanio, Aeneas and Europe were leaving

B. Look at the sentences below and fill in the gaps using information from the two first parts of the story:

1. The symbol of goddess Athena is a(n) _____

2. Poseidon is the god of the _____

3. Dido fell in love with _____

4. Dido is the queen of _____

5. The horn of _____ was in the box.

C. Match the phrases in A to the ones in B to build correct sentences according to this part of the story. There are extra options in B which will not be used!

A

B

1. The winged sandals belonged to...

A. ... fight the Evil.

2. Europe is going to Krakow to ...

B. ... her name.

3. Pietas is ...

C. ... a feeling of respect for life and for mankind.

4. Ariadne just told ...

D. ... Zeus.

E. ... synonym of war.

F. ... Hermes.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

D. Read the following passages from the text and answer the questions about them:

1. “Her parents’ faces appeared in front of her, as well as the faces of her two friends.” Who appeared in front of her?

2. “She opened it slowly feeling scared and hesitant.” Who does “she” refer to in this passage?

3. “Europe left the box on the ground and looked at it with doubt and wonder.” What did Europe find inside the box?

4. “A man was standing there.” Who was this man?

5. “Don’t worry, I only want to give you a precious gift.” What did Dido give Europe?

E. Tell if the sentences below are true or false according to the two first parts of the story and correct the false ones

- 1. The box has four objects. _____**
- 2. Poseidon was terrifying. _____**
- 3. The symbol of goddess Athena is a goat. _____**
- 4. Ascanio is Aeneas’ son. _____**
- 5. They went to America. _____**

Correct the false statements:

F. Answer the questions about the setting of the two first parts of the story:

1. What part of the day was it at the beginning of chapter 1?

2. Where was Europe at the beginning of chapter 1?

3. Where were Aeneas, Ascanio and Europe at the beginning of chapter 2?

WORKSHEET 4

While Reading Activity 2: Parts 3 and 4

Read parts three and four of the story and do the tasks below.

1. Look at the map of Europe below and paint the three countries that are mentioned in these two parts:



2. Write the correct word(s) for each activity below using the information from parts 3 and 4:

A. City in the north of Poland.

B. The name of the shoemaker.

C. What people noticed when Europe stopped in front of the city gate.

D. What people saw when they were gathered on a square and raised their heads.

E. Where Europe comes from.

3. Complete the table below with information from parts 3 and 4.

Where?	
What happened? (do a summary of the chapters)	

4. Answer the questions for each of the passages from parts 3 and 4. Use complete sentences!

A. “She noticed a crying woman” (part 3). Why was the woman crying?

**B. “We have to fly a little further west close to the ocean.” (part 4)
Where exactly do they have to fly and why?**

**C. “The rooster looked magnificent to Europe’s eyes.” (part 4) What
did the rooster look like?**

**D. “His eyes at an amazing brightness, strong arms were holding a
scared Europe.” (part 4) Why was Europe scared and who was
holding her?**

**E. “After a long flight they reached Aveiro. The canals were filled
with boats that rode back and forth carrying weeds from water to
the rural fields nearby.” (part 4) How was the weed transported and
what was it used for?**

WORKSHEET 5

While Reading Activity 3: Parts 5 and 6

Read parts five and six of the story and do the tasks below.

A. Read paragraphs 1 and 2 of chapter 5 and order the following sentences. Start with number 1!

- ☐ **A) That beast was revealed to be the dragon's brother.**
- ☐ **B) The heroes felt the beast drawing near.**
- ☐ **C) One of the heads spitted fire while the other told lies.**
- ☐ **D) It was envious of other dragons.**
- ☐ **E) Dragon's father cursed the beast by giving it two more heads.**

B. Read paragraphs 8 to 13 in part 5 and answer the following question:

How did our heroes find out that they were in Romania?

C. Read paragraph 10 from chapter 5.

Which adjectives did the rooster use to describe the flower? Circle the correct answer.

A) ugly, stinky

B) beautiful, calm

C) beautiful, sweet

D) sweet, socially awkward

D. Read paragraphs 6 to 8 in part 6 and fill the blanks (you can use more than one word in each blank).

The ladies who turned _____, _____ and _____ into _____ were _____.

Luckily for them, the _____ appeared and saved them.

Her life's goal is to _____, _____ and _____.

E. Read chapter 6 and answer the questions below with True (T) or False (F).

1) The Hill of Crosses was in the city of Šiauliai. _____

2) The heroes landed on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

3) The witches turned our heroes into stone. _____

F. Are these parts narrated in the past, present or future? Justify with two sentences from these parts.

G. Connect the characters from A to the places where they were found from B.

A		B
Sunflower Queen	-	- Hill of Crosses
Witches	-	- Carpathian Mountains
Iron Wolf	-	- Hill among the pines and sands
White Wolf	-	- Cave
Old Grey-Haired Man	-	- Hill full of half trees

H. Associate the events using R (Romania) or L (Lithuania) depending on where they take place.

A) The heroes were turned into stone. _____

B) The heroes jumped on Dragon to start their journey to Greece. _____

C) A portal opened for our heroes. _____

D) The heroes faced a beast with three heads. _____

WORKSHEET 6

Language

Read the first three parts of the story and do the tasks below

A. Read through the first three parts and note down the adjectives that are used to describe the characters of the story and complete the table below:

ADJECTIVE	SYNONYM	OPPOSITE

B. Answer the following questions using the preposition of time or place in brackets:

1. When was Europe sitting on the beach? (in)

2. Where is Europe at the beginning of the story? (in)

3. Where was the piece of paper Europe was reading from? (inside)

4. Where was Aeneas? (behind)

5. Where was Dido waiting for them? (on)

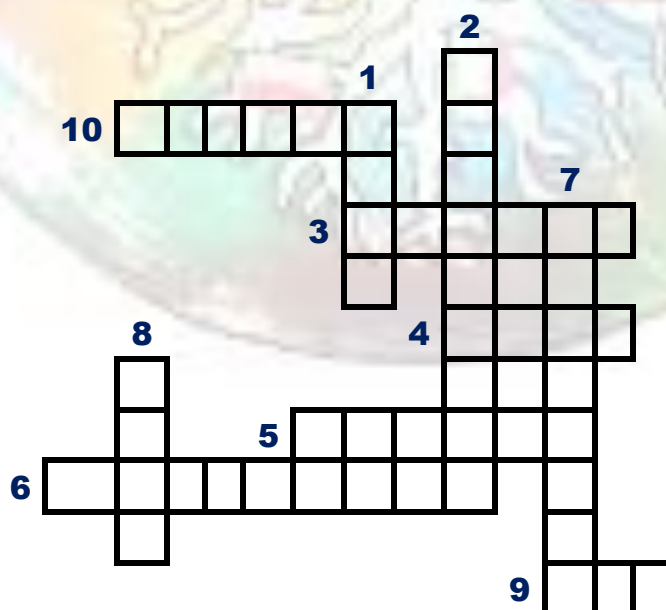
6. Where did Dido live? (in)

7. When did Europe reach Krakow? (after)

8. Where was the crying woman ? (in front of)

C. Look at the instructions and fill in the crossword puzzle:

- 1. A long story of heroic achievements.**
- 2. An unusual experience.**
- 3. A country with lots of gods.**
- 4. A journey for pleasure to another country**
- 5. Heavy rain in the sea**
- 6. A collapse of a mountain**
- 7. Going up a mountain**
- 8. Small ship**
- 9. Zeus is one, for example**
- 10. The most important people in a story.**



WORKSHEET 7

Language

Read parts 4, 5 and 6 of the story and do the tasks below

Verb tenses:

1) Fill in the gaps

Present Simple	Past Continuous	Past Simple	Past Perfect Continuous
			<i>had been flying</i>
		<i>landed</i>	
		<i>wasn't</i>	
	<i>were sitting</i>		

2) Fill the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

be	feel	make	understand
----	------	------	------------

a) Europe, rooster and dragon _____ that they got into serious trouble.

b) It appeared that those ladies _____ witches.

c) She _____ pity of Europe, Rooster and Dragon, so she
them _____ alive again.

Word formation:

1) In the first paragraph of Portugal's chapter, find the synonyms for the following words:

a) multitude _____

c) questioning _____

b) advantage _____

d) marketplace _____

2) Find the antonyms for the following words

a) huge ≠ _____

b) free ≠ _____

c) magnificent ≠ _____

d) colourful ≠ _____

Vocabulary:

1) Find the hidden characters from Romania' s chapter.

a) I have three heads and I am the brother of Europe' s dragon.

Who am I ?

b) I am a beautiful lady dressed in golden clothes. Who am I ?

c) I have ocean-bright blue eyes and Europe, Rooster and Dragon are searching for me. Who am I ?

2) Write a word family related with “Europe” according to the chapters.

WORKSHEET 8

After Reading

Complete the tasks below after you have finished reading the story:

1) Find 6 words from the myth.

B	A	J	U	S	T	I	C	E
U	F	R	L	T	K	I	P	J
X	S	R	I	C	T	O	O	R
O	R	I	M	A	R	K	W	H
V	Q	D	N	U	D	R	E	F
Q	P	Z	E	U	S	N	R	M
T	L	F	C	F	S	W	E	H

2) Match each of the features to the corresponding country.

Greece

Portugal

Lithuania

Owl

Ocean

Rooster

Wolves

Witches

Athena

Wooden house

Fig-tree Crosses

Canals

3) Write the country to which each sentence below refers:

a) She would be able to go wherever she wanted like the messenger god Hermes!

b) Love is able to defeat evil.

c) There were many pretty striped houses all around the city.

d) I am the Sunflower Queen.

4) Answer the questions below:

a) Where is Ramiro from?

b) Who gave Europe the mysterious ring?

c) Where could they find the wolf?

d) How many heads does the dragon have?

5) Circle the words which are similar to “courage”.

- **bravery**
- **fear**
- **shyness**
- **cowardice**
- **fear**
- **audacity**
- **strength**
- **fearlessness**

6) Fill the gaps with 1 or 2 words.

a) The _____ will help you to go wherever you want.

b) _____ gave her the magic compass to find a solution for the problem.

7) Circle the right answer.

Take the three _____ with you, but be careful.

a) pieces of fire

b) magical rings

c) heads of dragon

Finally there was a(n) _____ at the bottom of the box.

a) hat

b) necklace

c) owl

8) Match each of the symbols with the right feature/characteristic as expressed in the story:

magic compass	justice and virtue
black rooster	no worries about food
animal horn	go wherever you want and find the way

WORKSHEET 9

After Reading Follow-Up Activities

Complete the tasks below:

1. Use the keywords in the box below to complete the gaps.

My name is _____ and I come from a distant land called _____ . I have been _____ throughout the world.

But if you want to find _____ , you will have to fly further until you find a _____ and beside it there will be a _____ full of tall trees.

Wolf	Europe	hill	Greece	river	wandering
------	--------	------	--------	-------	-----------

2. Read the sentences and decide whether they are True (T) or False (F).

- a) Europe is a man. _____
- b) Rooster and Dragon are Europe's friends. _____
- c) Europe met the Dragon in Portugal. _____
- d) Europe, Rooster and Dragon landed safely on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. _____

3. Put the letters in the right order to build meaningful words.

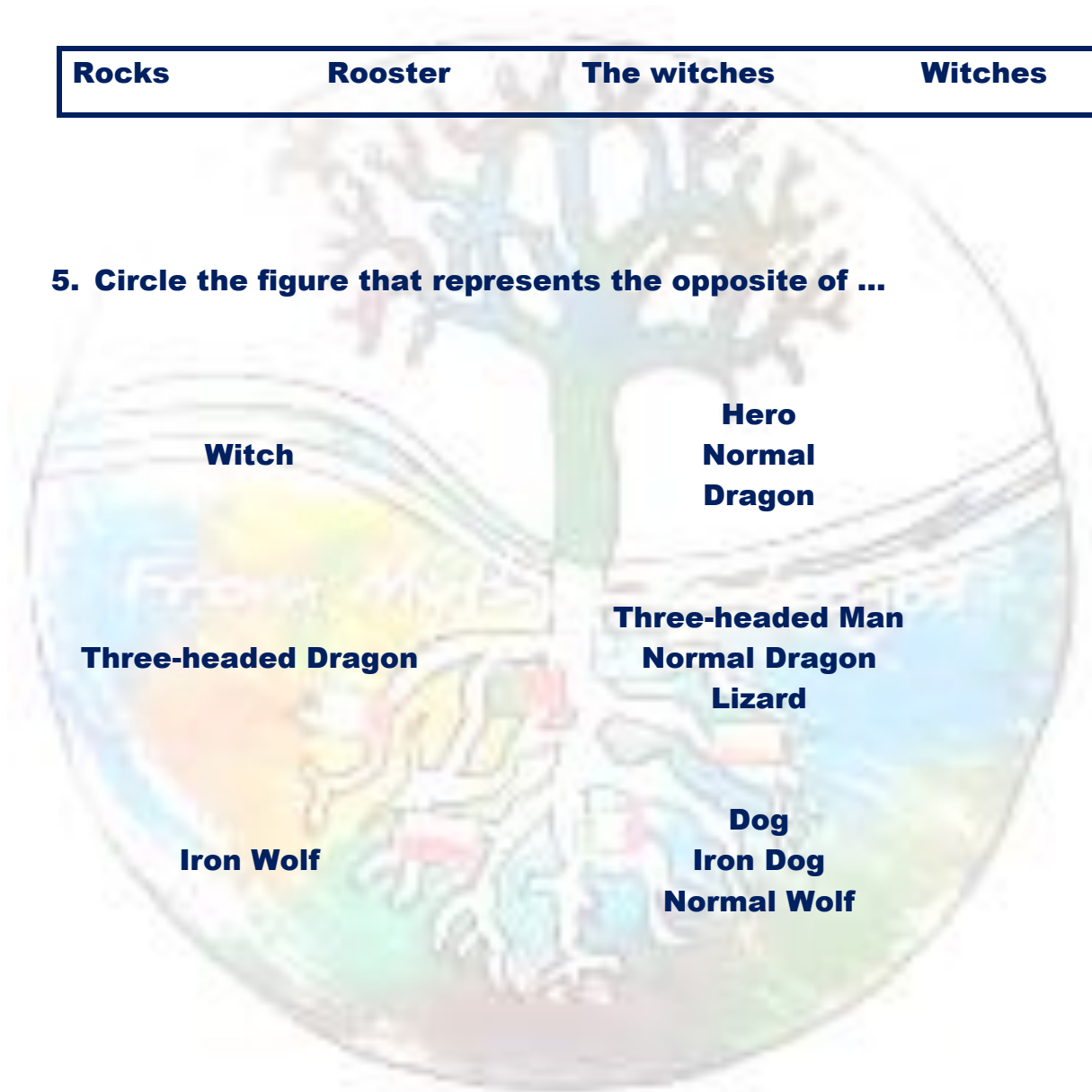
- a) ICHSETW - _____
- b) LWFO - _____
- c) OFTNERU - _____
- d) RDOAGN - _____

4. Fill the gaps using the right words from the box below.

It looked like those ladies were _____. While they were having a ball on the hill and waiting for their new victims, _____ decided to have fun and turned Europe, _____ and Dragon into _____.

Rocks	Rooster	The witches	Witches
--------------	----------------	--------------------	----------------

5. Circle the figure that represents the opposite of ...



6. Choose the correct option.

a) What did the box contain?

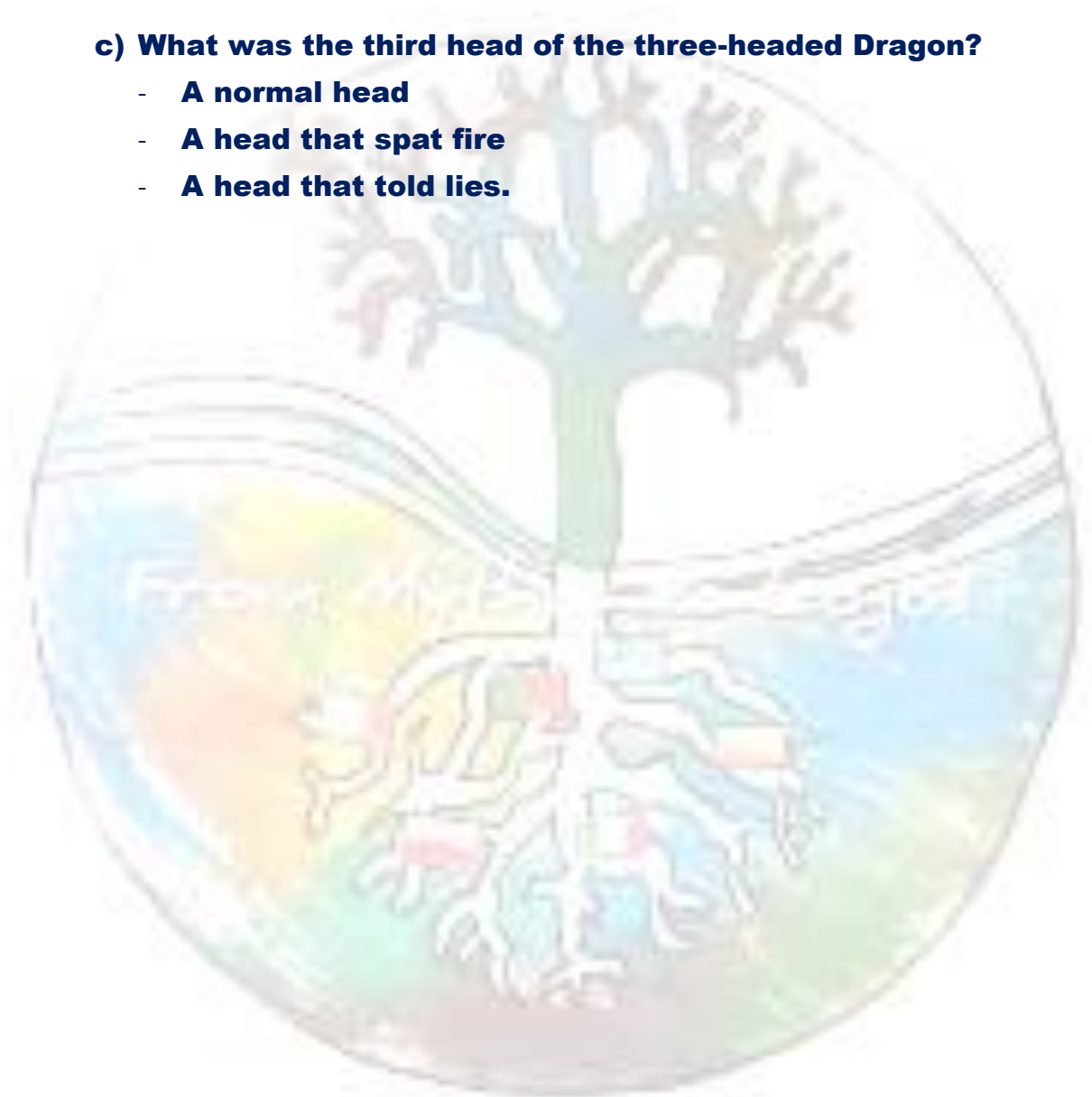
- **Animal Horn**
- **Nothing**
- **A Key**

b) What was Europe?

- **A Dragon**
- **A Wolf**
- **A Woman**

c) What was the third head of the three-headed Dragon?

- **A normal head**
- **A head that spat fire**
- **A head that told lies.**



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