**Sample Report on Zeus**

Long ago in ancient Greece, science was much less developed than it is today. They had no way to explain natural phenomena such as thunderstorms, echoes, the changing of the seasons, or even why the sun rose and set. As a result, people told stories to explain the mysteries of their world. These stories became Greek mythology and were often about powerful gods and goddesses who lived on Mount Olympus and controlled different aspects of human life. The king of these Olympian gods was named Zeus, but in the Roman Empire he was known as Jupiter. Zeus was in charge of the heavens and earth; he controlled the weather, especially thunder and lightning, and brought justice to mortals and immortals alike. His symbols include the thunderbolt, eagle, and oak tree. He was married to Hera, queen of the gods and his sister, but he fathered many children outside his marriage, which infuriated Hera. Overall Zeus was a brave god, but even though he was in charge of justice, he could be cruel when he didn’t get his way.

*Insert Body Paragraph #1 about Zeus’s birth.*

*Body Paragraph #2:* Zeus is a very brave because he is willing to face his enemies. When Cronos ate Zeus’s siblings, Zeus found a way to free them. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/gods/explore/exp\_set.html) In addition to Zeus freeing his siblings, he also defeats his father’s warriors. When Cronos gathered the Titans to attack Zeus and other Olympian gods, Zeus called on the Cyclopes and the Hundred-handed Ones to help him ambush his father’s warriors. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 *Insert Body Paragraph #3 on another character trait.*

 Even though Zeus was a brave god, he was not perfect. At times he could appear very cruel. While it makes sense for the ancient Greeks to imagine the king of the gods as a courageous warrior, willing to face danger to protect others, it seems strange that they would also imagine that the god of justice could be so harsh and unfair at times. However, Zeus’s flaws may have had a purpose. Making Zeus into a dangerous figure who would hurt others to get his way, would insure that everyone would worship and respect him out of fear that he would punish them next.

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