



PARTICIPATORY STORIES

Orpheus and Eurydice (9 – 10 age group)

Learning objectives

This story is made up of 7 sheets that get more complex narratively as the children progress. Going from one level (sheet) to the next, the children will enrich the story of Orpheus and Eurydice with adjectives (of appearance and of character), sound words (dialogue and onomatopoeia), adverbs (of manner and of place), and finally create their own ending to the story.

STORY BASE

Read the simple version of the story to children.

Orpheus plays the lyre. With his voice, he has the power to enchant everyone.

He falls in love with the nymph Eurydice. Orpheus and Eurydice marry. The shepherd Aristeus loves Eurydice also and follows her everywhere.

Eurydice, frightened by his attention, flees from Aristeus. Running through the grass she does not notice a snake. The snake bites her.

Eurydice dies in the arms of Orpheus.

Orpheus weeps and decides to leave for the realm of the dead to take back his bride. Singing with his voice, he convinces all the guardians of the underworld to let him pass. He passes Charon, the ferryman of souls, Cerberus the three-headed dog, and reaches all the way to Persephone and Hades himself.

All of them are enchanted and allow Orpheus to take Eurydice back, but on one condition. He must return to the realm of the living without ever looking back. If he looks back, Eurydice will be lost forever.

Orpheus accepts and begins to ascend with Eurydice behind him.

Doubt, however, creeps in and makes him turn around before he reaches the end.

Eurydice smiles at her beloved just before disappearing forever.

LEVEL 1: ADJECTIVES OF APPEARANCE (WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?)

Enrich the text with your students with adjectives of appearance. The words in parentheses below or some suggestions – depending on the level of advancement of your class, decide on the number of adjectives that you would like to add before each of the targeted nouns.

(handsome, tall, sturdy) Orpheus plays the lyre. With his (melodious, intense, high) voice he has the power to enchant everyone.

He falls in love, with the (pretty, beautiful, blonde) nymph Eurydice. Orpheus and Eurydice marry. The (muscular, short, tanned) shepherd Aristeus loves Eurydice also and follows her everywhere.

Eurydice, frightened by his attention, flees from Aristeus. Running through the (tall, green, dry) grass she does not notice a snake. The (venomous, slimy, sinuous) snake bites her.

Eurydice dies in the (**strong, robust**) arms of Orpheus.

Orpheus weeps and decides to leave for the (**impenetrable, dark, inaccessible**) realm of the dead to take back his bride. Singing with his voice he convinces all the (**ugly, huge**) guardians of the underworld to let him pass. He passes Charon, the ferryman of souls, Cerberus, the (**horrid, hairy, gigantic**) three-headed dog, and reached all the way to (**beautiful, young, evanescent**) Persephone and (**tall, old, bearded**) Hades himself.

All of them are enchanted and allow Orpheus to take Eurydice back, but on one condition. He must return to the realm of the living without ever looking back. If he looks back, Eurydice will be lost forever.

Orpheus accepts and begins to ascend with Eurydice behind him.

Doubt, however, creeps in and makes him turn around before he reaches the end.

Eurydice smiles at her beloved just before disappearing forever.

LEVEL 2: ADJECTIVES OF CHARACTER (WHAT ARE THEY LIKE)

Enrich the text with your students with adjectives of character (positive or negative). Write and read them along with the adjectives of appearance that you already wrote for the Level 1 sheet.

(kind, affable, attentive) (handsome, tall, sturdy) Orpheus plays the lyre. With his (sweet, wonderful, persuasive) (melodious, intense, high) voice he has the power to enchant everyone.

He falls in love, with the (pretty, adorable, lovable) (pretty, beautiful, blonde) nymph Eurydice.

(charming, seductive, amorous) Orpheus and (sweet, affectionate, enchanting) Eurydice marry.

The (annoying, insistent, nagging) (muscular, short, tanned) shepherd Aristeus loves Eurydice also and follows her everywhere.

Eurydice, frightened by his (nagging, oppressive, harassing) attention, flees from Aristeus. Running through the (tall, green, dry) grass she does not notice a snake. The (villainous, evil, scheming) (venomous, slimy sinuous) snake bites her.

Eurydice dies in the (loving, caring) (strong, robust) arms of Orpheus.

(desperate, afflicted, tormented) Orpheus weeps and decides to leave for the (impenetrable, dark, inaccessible) realm of the dead to take back his bride. Singing with his voice he convinces all the (frightful, horrifying), (ugly, huge) guardians of the underworld to let him pass. He passes Charon, the ferryman of souls, Cerberus the (gruff, snarling), (horrid, hairy, gigantic) three-headed dog, and reaches all the way to (sad, cruel, kind) (beautiful, young, evanescent) Persephone and (wise, severe, egoistic) (tall, old, bearded) Hades himself.

All of them are enchanted and allow him to take Eurydice back, but on one condition. He must return to the realm of the living without ever looking back. If he looks back, Eurydice will be lost forever.

Orpheus accepts and begins to ascend with Eurydice behind him.

Doubt, however, creeps in and makes him turn around before he reaches the end.

Eurydice smiles at her beloved just before disappearing forever.

LEVEL 3: SOUND WORDS (WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?)

Enrich the text with your students with sound words (dialogue and onomatopoeia). Write and read them along with the adjectives of character and appearance that you already wrote for the Level 2 and Level 1 sheets. The suggested words in green are proposals towards which you can guide your students, but their answers are allowed to vary to express their imagination.

(kind, affable, attentive) (handsome, tall, sturdy) Orpheus plays the lyre. With his (sweet, wonderful, persuasive) (melodious, intense, high) voice he has the power to enchant everyone. "Listen to my singing, stop and do not run, stay here with me, your heart will thank me." - he sings softly, playing his instrument.

He falls in love with the (pretty, adorable, lovable) (pretty, beautiful, blonde) nymph Eurydice.

(charming, seductive, amorous) Orpheus and (sweet, affectionate, enchanting) Eurydice marry. "I am happy and I love you", they say to each other, while all of nature joins in their song. The birds sing: "Chirp, chirp", the trees and the wind: "Swish, swish".

The (annoying, insistent, nagging) (muscular, short, tanned) shepherd Aristeus loves Eurydice also and follows her everywhere.

Eurydice, frightened by his (nagging, oppressive, harassing) attentions, flees. She runs away shouting "Help, help! Stop following me." Running through the (tall, green, dry) grass she does not notice a snake. The (villainous, evil, scheming) (venomous, slimy sinuous) snake bites her. ZAP, a quick bite on the ankle.

Eurydice dies in the (loving, caring) (strong, robust) arms of Orpheus.

(desperate, afflicted, tormented) Orpheus weeps and decides to leave for the (impenetrable, dark, inaccessible) realm of the dead to take back his bride. Singing with his voice he convinces all the (frightful, horrifying), (ugly, huge) guardians of the underworld to let him pass. -"Let me pass, I must go and get my great love back!", he sang through his tears.

He passes Charon, the ferryman of souls, Cerberus, the (gruff, snarling), (horrid, hairy, gigantic) three-headed dog that growls "GRRR" between his teeth, and he reaches all the way to (sad, cruel, kind) (beautiful, young, evanescent) Persephone and (wise, severe, egoistic) (tall, old, bearded) Hades himself.

All of them are enchanted and allow him to take Eurydice back, but on one condition. He must return to the realm of the living without ever looking back. If he looks back, Eurydice will be lost forever. -

"You will have to trust your heart, without seeing or hearing," Persephone whispers to him.

Orpheus accepts and begins to ascend with Eurydice behind him.

"Will she really be behind me? I don't hear her footsteps, I don't see her shadow," Orpheus murmurs to himself. Doubt, however, creeps in and makes him turn around before he reaches the end.

Eurydice smiles at her beloved before disappearing forever. "Goodbye ..." she barely whispers.

LEVEL 4: ADVERBS OF MANNER (HOW ARE THEY DOING IT?)

Enrich the text with your students with words that indicate how the actions take place. Write them down and read them together with the adjectives of character and appearance that you have already written for the Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 sheets. The suggested words are options for explaining the concept to students who will then follow their own fantasy. The adverbs can either respect the truths of the story or suggest the opposite.

(kind, affable, attentive) (handsome, tall, sturdy) Orpheus plays the lyre (magnificently, divinely, sublimely/mediocrely, horrendously). With his (sweet, wonderful, persuasive) (melodious, intense, high) voice he has the power to enchant everyone. "Listen to my singing, stop and do not run, stay here with me, your heart will thank me." - he sings softly, playing his instrument.

He falls in love (madly, deeply, intensely, superficially) with the (pretty, adorable, lovable) (pretty, beautiful, blonde) nymph Eurydice. (charming, seductive, amorous) Orpheus and (sweet, affectionate, enchanting) Eurydice marry (merrily, happily, sadly). "I am happy and I love you", they say to each other, while all of nature joins in their song. The birds sing: "Chirp, chirp", the trees and the wind: "Swish, swish".

The (annoying, insistent, nagging) (muscular, short, tanned) shepherd Aristeus loves Eurydice also and follows her everywhere (secretly, naggingly, happily).

Eurydice, frightened by his (nagging, oppressive, harassing) attentions, flees (dishevelled, disorderly, gracefully). She runs away shouting "Help, help! Stop following me." Running through the (tall, green,

dry) grass she does not notice a snake. The (villainous, evil, scheming) (venomous, slimy sinuous) snake bites her (ferociously, cruelly, wickedly, sweetly). ZAP, a quick bite on the ankle.

Eurydice dies in the (loving, caring) (strong, robust) arms of Orpheus.

(desperate, afflicted, tormented) Orpheus weeps and decides to leave for the (impenetrable, dark, inaccessible) realm of the dead (swiftly, rapidly, promptly) to take back his bride. Singing with his voice he convinces all the (frightful, horrifying), (ugly, huge) guardians of the underworld to let him pass. - "Let me pass, I must go and get my great love back!", he sang through his tears.

He passes Charon, the ferryman of souls, Cerberus, the (gruff, snarling), (horrid, hairy, gigantic) three-headed dog that growls "GRRR" between his teeth, and he reaches all the way to (sad, cruel, kind) (beautiful, young, evanescent) Persephone and (wise, severe, egoistic) (tall, old, bearded) Hades himself.

All of them are enchanted and allow him to take Eurydice back, but on one condition. He must return to the realm of the living without ever looking back. If he looks back, Eurydice will be lost forever. - "You will have to trust your heart, without seeing or hearing," Persephone whispers to him.

Orpheus accepts and begins to ascend with Eurydice behind him (**slowly, quietly, gradually, nimbly, hurriedly**).

"Will she really be behind me? I don't hear her footsteps, I don't see her shadow," Orpheus murmurs to himself. Doubt, however, creeps in and makes him turn around before he reaches the end.

Eurydice smiles at her beloved before disappearing forever (**amiably, sadly, sarcastically**). "Goodbye ..." she barely whispers.

LEVEL 5: ADVERBS OF PLACE/PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE (WHERE IS IT?)

Enrich the text with words that indicate where the actions take place. Write them down and read them together with the adjectives of character and aspect, adverbs of manner, that you have already written for the Level 4, Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 sheets. The words suggested in pink are options for explaining the concept to students who will then follow their own fantasy. The adverbs can either respect the truths of the story or suggest the opposite.

(kind, affable, attentive) (handsome, tall, sturdy) Orpheus plays the lyre (magnificently, divinely, sublimely/mediocrely, horrendously) (in front of a tree). With his (sweet, wonderful, persuasive) (melodious, intense, high) voice he has the power to enchant everyone (around him). "Listen to my singing, stop and do not run, stay here with me, your heart will thank me." - he sings softly, playing his instrument.

He falls in love (madly, deeply, intensely, superficially) with the (pretty, adorable, lovable) (pretty, beautiful, blonde) nymph Eurydice. (charming, seductive, amorous) Orpheus and (sweet, affectionate, enchanting) Eurydice marry (merrily, happily, sadly) (in front of everyone). "I am happy and I love you", they say to each other, while all of nature joins in their song. The birds sing: "Chirp, chirp", the trees and the wind: "Swish, swish".

The (annoying, insistent, nagging) (muscular, short, tanned) shepherd Aristeus loves Eurydice also and follows her everywhere (secretly, naggingly, happily).

Eurydice, frightened by his (nagging, oppressive, harassing) attentions, flees (dishevelled, disorderly, gracefully) (down there in the valley). She runs away shouting "Help, help! Stop following me."

Running through the (tall, green, dry) grass she does not notice a snake. The (villainous, evil, scheming)

(venomous, slimy sinuous) snake bites her (ferociously, cruelly, wickedly, sweetly) (on the ankle, in her heart). ZAP, a quick bite on the ankle.

Eurydice dies in the (loving, caring) (strong, robust) arms of Orpheus.

(desperate, afflicted, tormented) Orpheus weeps and decides to leave for the (impenetrable, dark, inaccessible) realm of the dead (swiftly, rapidly, promptly) to take back his bride. Singing with his voice he convinces all the (frightful, horrifying), (ugly, huge) guardians of the underworld to let him pass. - "Let me pass, I must go and get my great love back!", he sang through his tears.

He passes Charon, the ferryman of souls, Cerberus, the (gruff, snarling), (horrid, hairy, gigantic) three-headed dog that growls "GRRR" between his teeth, and he reaches all the way to (sad, cruel, kind) (beautiful, young, evanescent) Persephone and (wise, severe, egoistic) (tall, old, bearded) Hades himself.

All of them are enchanted and allow him to take Eurydice back, but on one condition. He must return to the realm of the living without ever looking back. If he looks back, Eurydice will be lost forever. - "You will have to trust your heart, without seeing or hearing," Persephone whispers to him.

Orpheus accepts and begins to ascend with Eurydice behind him (*slowly, quietly, gradually, nimbly, hurriedly*).

"Will she really be behind me? I don't hear her footsteps, I don't see her shadow," Orpheus murmurs to himself. Doubt, however, creeps in and makes him turn around before he reaches the end.

Eurydice smiles at her beloved before disappearing forever (*amiably, sadly, sarcastically*). "Goodbye ..." she barely whispers.

LEVEL 6: YOUR OWN ENDING (HOW DOES IT END?)

Enrich the text with your students by finally writing an ending that they choose. Write and read it along with the sound words, adjectives of character and appearance, adverbs of manner and place, prepositions of place, that you already wrote for the Level 5, Level 4, Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 sheets. The suggested words in purple are proposals towards which you can guide your students, but their answers are allowed to vary to express their imagination.

(kind, affable, attentive) (handsome, tall, sturdy) Orpheus plays the lyre (magnificently, divinely, sublimely/mediocrely, horrendously) (in front of a tree). With his (sweet, wonderful, persuasive) (melodious, intense, high) voice he has the power to enchant everyone (around him). "Listen to my singing, stop and do not run, stay here with me, your heart will thank me." - he sings softly, playing his instrument.

He falls in love (madly, deeply, intensely, superficially) with the (pretty, adorable, lovable) (pretty, beautiful, blonde) nymph Eurydice. (charming, seductive, amorous) Orpheus and (sweet, affectionate, enchanting) Eurydice marry (merrily, happily, sadly) (in front of everyone). "I am happy and I love you", they say to each other, while all of nature joins in their song. The birds sing: "Chirp, chirp", the trees and the wind: "Swish, swish".

The (annoying, insistent, nagging) (muscular, short, tanned) shepherd Aristeus loves Eurydice also and follows her everywhere (secretly, naggingly, happily).

Eurydice, frightened by his (nagging, oppressive, harassing) attentions, flees (dishevelled, disorderly, gracefully) (down there in the valley). She runs away shouting "Help, help! Stop following me."

Running through the (tall, green, dry) grass she does not notice a snake. The (villainous, evil, scheming)

(venomous, slimy sinuous) snake bites her (ferociously, cruelly, wickedly, sweetly) (there on the ankle).

ZAP, a quick bite on the ankle.

Eurydice dies in the (loving, caring) (strong, robust) arms of Orpheus.

(desperate, afflicted, tormented) Orpheus weeps and decides to leave for the (impenetrable, dark, inaccessible) realm of the dead (swiftly, rapidly, promptly) to take back his bride. Singing with his voice he convinces all the (frightful, horrifying), (ugly, huge) guardians of the underworld to let him pass. -

"Let me pass, I must go and get my great love back!", he sang through his tears.

He passes Charon, the ferryman of souls, Cerberus, the (gruff, snarling), (horrid, hairy, gigantic) three-headed dog that growls "GRRR" between his teeth, and he reaches all the way to (sad, cruel, kind) (beautiful, young, evanescent) Persephone and (wise, severe, egoistic) (tall, old, bearded) Hades himself. All of them are enchanted and allow him to take Eurydice back, but on one condition. He must return to the realm of the living without ever looking back. If he looks back, Eurydice will be lost forever. - "You will have to trust your heart, without seeing or hearing," Persephone whispers to him.

Orpheus accepts and begins to ascend with Eurydice behind him (slowly, quietly, gradually, nimbly, hurriedly).

"Will she really be behind me? I don't hear her footsteps, I don't see her shadow," Orpheus murmurs to himself. Doubt, however, creeps in and makes him turn around before he reaches the end.

Eurydice smiles at her beloved before disappearing forever (amiably, sadly, sarcastically). "Goodbye ..." she barely whispers.

Orpheus opens his eyes; it was only his fear. At last, he glimpses the light. One more step and then another one, until reaching the middle of the clearing, far from the dark cavern in which he had walked without turning around. Suddenly slender arms clasp him behind his back, he turns and sees the beautiful face of his beloved Eurydice.

The end.