



PARTICIPATORY STORIES

Cupid and Psyche (7 – 8 age group)

Learning objectives

This story is made up of 4 sheets (story base and 3 activities) that allow the students to give life to the story. The objective is to enrich the story collaboratively and to learn to visualise, feel and experience the setting of the story better. Going from one level (sheet) to the next, the children will enrich the story of “Cupid and Psyche” by adding dialogue, rhymes and their own ending.

After the completion of all activities, the teacher can encourage each group to enact their story by using the available StoriasKit (the shadow play theatre).

STORY BASE

Read the simple version of the story to children (the story base). Read expressively and emphasise key words (such as **enchant, gets angry, illuminating, etc**). When reading the story, pause and encourage the children to look up the key words or share with the class their meaning. Then have the pupils work in groups to enrich the story base (starting from Level 1).

Psyche is the youngest but also the most beautiful of three sisters. People in the streets **are enchanted** looking at her, as if she were the goddess of beauty.

Because of this, Venus **gets angry** and asks her son Cupid to make Psyche fall in love with a creature.

The arrow accidentally strikes Cupid himself, who falls in love with Psyche and asks to marry her.

Psyche, however, does not know that her groom is the beautiful god, because she can never see him.

The envious sisters tell her that her groom is a monster, **instilling** doubt.

One night, Psyche spies on him by **illuminating** him with an oil lamp. The god wakes up and flees.

Psyche looks for him everywhere and arrives at the temple of the goddess Venus who submits her to three trials.

She must **separate** huge piles of grains, **shear** dangerous sheep and fetch water from a miraculous spring at the top of a mountain. Psyche **receives** help from an army of ants, a talking reed and Zeus' eagle. Venus then sends her to the Underworld to ask Persephone for the vase of beauty.

Psyche **makes** the journey, but on the way back, seeing her reflection in the waters of the river, she **realises** that all those trials have extinguished her beauty. Despite being told not to, she **opens** the vase. A mortal sleep **seizes** her. Cupid, moved by such devotion, **saves** her by bringing her back to life.

LEVEL 1: WHAT ARE THEY SAYING? (DIALOGUE)

Working in their group, pupils should now enrich the text with dialogue. The words in **orange** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, we recommend children write at least 1 sentence of dialogue.

Psyche is the youngest but also the most beautiful of three sisters. People in the streets **are enchanted** looking at her, as if she were the goddess of beauty. **The people say: “Psyche, we are all bewitched by your beauty. We adore you”, and Psyche responds: “Thank you, you are always kind. You have a compliment for me every day.”**

Because of this, Venus **gets angry** and asks her son Cupid to make Psyche fall in love with a creature. **Venus commands: “I'm really furious, my nerves are on edge. The vain Psyche will see now! Cupid, come here! Throw an arrow at her and make her fall in love with a monster,” and Cupid agrees: “Of course, mother, I'll do as you say. My arrows are too powerful. No one can resist me!”**

The arrow accidentally strikes Cupid himself, who falls in love with Psyche and asks to marry her. **Cupid confesses: “Psyche, I am captivated by your beauty, I am head over heels in love! Marry me!” Psyche cries out: “Of course, but I wish I could see you,” and Cupid responds: “No, you must never see me, otherwise I shall disappear.”**

Psyche, however, does not know that her groom is the beautiful god, because she can never see him. The envious sisters tell her that her groom is a monster, **instilling** doubt. **Her sisters tease: “Your groom doesn't show his face because he's a monster”. Psyche says: But he is so kind and has such a beautiful voice!”, but her sisters demand: “We think he's a monster, you should take a peek at him when he's asleep.”**

One night, Psyche spies on him by **illuminating** him with an oil lamp. The god wakes up and flees. **Cupid yells: “What have you done Psyche, you shouldn't have. Now I must leave.” Psyche cries: “Forgive me, don't leave me!”**

Psyche looks for him everywhere and arrives at the temple of the goddess Venus who submits her to three trials. **Venus instructs: “If you wish to see my son again, you will have to pass three trials.” And Psyche agrees: “Whatever it takes to see my beloved again.”**

She must **separate** huge piles of grains, **shear** dangerous sheep and fetch water from a miraculous spring at the top of a mountain. Psyche **receives** help from an army of ants, a talking reed and Zeus' eagle. Venus then sends her to the Underworld to ask Persephone for the vase of beauty. **Venus tells Psyche: “I am not yet satisfied even if you have passed all the trials. As my last order, I command you to go to Persephone and get the vase of her beauty.” Psyche says: “That’s impossible, no one can descend into the underworld.” Venus replies: “Then you will never see my son again.” So, Psyche agrees: “I will go, for my Cupid I am willing to do anything.”**

Psyche **makes** the journey, but on the way back, seeing her reflection in the waters of the river, she **realises** that all those trials have extinguished her beauty. Despite being told not to, she **opens** the vase. **Psyche cries out: “Oh, how ugly I am, I want to take some of the beauty that is in this vase...”**

A mortal sleep **seizes** her. Cupid, moved by such devotion, **saves** her by bringing her back to life. **Cupid whispers: “My sweet bride, you have done everything for me and I want to be with you! Now we will be happy forever!”**

LEVEL 2: CAN YOU CREATE RHYMES? (RHYMING WORDS)

Working in their group, pupils should now enrich the text with rhymes. Help children think up rhymes and write them along with the dialogue that they already wrote for the Level 1 sheet. The rhyme(s) in **pink** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, we recommend children write at least 1 rhyme.

Psyche is the youngest but also the most beautiful of three sisters. People in the streets **are enchanted** looking at her, as if she were the goddess of **beauty (rhyming words: snooty, fruity, cutey...: She is a real cutey!)**. The people say: “Psyche, we are all bewitched by your beauty. We adore you”, and **Psyche responds: “Thank you, you are always kind. You have a compliment for me every day.”**

Because of this, Venus **gets angry** and asks her son Cupid to make Psyche fall in love with a **creature (rhyming words: feature, teacher, preacher...: She thinks a punishment like that will teach her!)**.

Venus commands: “I'm really furious, my nerves are on edge. The vain Psyche will see now! Cupid,

come here! Throw an arrow at her and make her fall in love with a monster,” and Cupid agrees: “Of course, mother, I'll do as you say. My arrows are too powerful. No one can resist me!”

The arrow accidentally strikes Cupid himself, who falls in love with Psyche and asks to marry her. Cupid confesses: “Psyche, I am captivated by your beauty, I am head over heels in love! Marry me!” Psyche cries out: “Of course, but I wish I could see you,” and Cupid responds: “No, you must never see me, otherwise I shall disappear.”

Psyche, however, does not know that her groom is the beautiful god, because she can never see him.

The envious sisters tell her that her groom is a monster, **instilling doubt** (rhyming words: shout, snout, about...: She begins to think he has a pig-like snout!) Her sisters tease: “Your groom doesn't show his face because he's a monster”. Psyche says: But he is so kind and has such a beautiful voice!”, but her sisters demand: “We think he's a monster, you should take a peek at him when he's asleep.”

One night, Psyche spies on him by **illuminating** him with an oil lamp. The god wakes up and **flees** (rhyming words: freeze, agrees, please, knees...: Psyche falls down to her knees) Cupid yells: “What

have you done Psyche, you shouldn't have. Now I must leave.” Psyche cries: “Forgive me, don't leave me!”

Psyche looks for him everywhere and arrives at the temple of the goddess Venus who submits her to three trials. **Venus instructs:** “If you wish to see my son again, you will have to pass three trials.” And **Psyche agrees:** “Whatever it takes to see my beloved again.”

She must **separate** huge piles of grains, **shear** dangerous sheep and fetch water from a miraculous spring at the top of a mountain. Psyche **receives** help from an army of ants, a talking reed and Zeus' eagle. Venus then sends her to the Underworld to ask Persephone for the vase of beauty. **Venus tells Psyche:** “I am not yet satisfied even if you have passed all the trials. As my last order, I command you to go to Persephone and get the vase of her beauty.” Psyche says: “That’s impossible, no one can descend into the underworld.” Venus replies: “Then you will never see my son again.” So, **Psyche agrees:** “I will go, for my Cupid I am willing to do anything.”

Psyche **makes** the journey, but on the way back, seeing her reflection in the waters of the river, she **realises** that all those trials have extinguished her beauty. Despite being told not to, she **opens** the **vase**

(rhyming words: face, place, chase...: She can no longer stand to look at her face) Psyche cries out:

“Oh, how ugly I am, I want to take some of the beauty that is in this vase....”

A mortal sleep **seizes** her. Cupid, moved by such devotion, **saves** her by bringing her back to life. **Cupid** whispers: “My sweet bride, you have done everything for me and I want to be with you! Now we will be happy forever!”

LEVEL 3: HOW DOES IT END? (YOUR OWN ENDING)

Working in their group, pupils should now enrich the text by expanding on the ending. Help them write and read the ending sentence(s) along with the dialogue and rhymes that you already wrote for the Level 1 and Level 2 sheets. The sentences in **purple** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, we recommend children write at least 1 sentence to enrich the ending.

Psyche is the youngest but also the most beautiful of three sisters. People in the streets **are enchanted** looking at her, as if she were the goddess of **beauty (rhyming words: snooty, fruity, cutey...: She is a real cutey!)**. **The people say: “Psyche, we are all bewitched by your beauty. We adore you”, and Psyche responds: “Thank you, you are always kind. You have a compliment for me every day.”**

Because of this, Venus **gets angry** and asks her son Cupid to make Psyche fall in love with a **creature (rhyming words: feature, teacher, preacher...: She thinks a punishment like that will teach her!)**.

Venus commands: “I'm really furious, my nerves are on edge. The vain Psyche will see now! Cupid,

come here! Throw an arrow at her and make her fall in love with a monster,” and Cupid agrees: “Of course, mother, I'll do as you say. My arrows are too powerful. No one can resist me!”

The arrow accidentally strikes Cupid himself, who falls in love with Psyche and asks to marry her. Cupid confesses: “Psyche, I am captivated by your beauty, I am head over heels in love! Marry me!” Psyche cries out: “Of course, but I wish I could see you,” and Cupid responds: “No, you must never see me, otherwise I shall disappear.”

Psyche, however, does not know that her groom is the beautiful god, because she can never see him.

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One night, Psyche spies on him by **illuminating** him with an oil lamp. The god wakes up and flees (rhyming words: freeze, agrees, please, knees...: Psyche falls down to her knees) Cupid yells: “What

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Psyche **makes** the journey, but on the way back, seeing her reflection in the waters of the river, she **realises** that all those trials have extinguished her beauty. Despite being told not to, she **opens** the **vase**

(rhyming words: face, place, chase...: She can no longer stand to look at her face) Psyche cries out:

“Oh, how ugly I am, I want to take some of the beauty that is in this vase....”

A mortal sleep **seizes** her. Cupid, moved by such devotion, **saves** her by bringing her back to life. **Cupid** whispers: “My sweet bride, you have done everything for me and I want to be with you! Now we will be happy forever!”

Out of the vase came Cupid, who embraced Psyche and told her that even dishevelled and dirty she had never been more beautiful.

The end!