

Phrases or Idioms from Greek Mythology:

Idioms and Phrases	Meaning	Allusion
open Pandora’s box	a box of evils that cause trouble	Pandora, the first mortal woman created by the gods was a woman who would wreak havoc on earth, the catastrophe of mankind. Pandora was desperate to open a box, presented to her by Zeus, as a wedding present, but her husband, Epimetheus, having been told by Zeus, what it contained, forbid her to do so. Pandora’s curiosity got the better of her and while Epimetheus slept, she opened the box, letting all the evils of the World fly out.
Achilles’ heels	a weak spot	As a baby, Achilles’ mother, Thetis, dunked him in the River Styx, said to have the magical power of making people invulnerable, by holding him upside down by his heel. Consequently, Achilles’ heel was the only part of his body to be kept dry and as it turns out, vulnerable, it was at this spot, according to Homer, in his work, The Iliad, a poison arrow, launched by Paris, one of the Trojans, hit Achilles, killing him instantly.
the Midas Touch	Everything a person does turns out very successful.	The saying comes from the Greek myth about Midas, the greedy king of Phrygia, in Asia Minor, who was granted a wish by <u>Dionysus</u> , god of the grape-harvest, winemaking and wine, of fertility, ritual madness, religious ecstasy. Midas wished for everything he touched, to turn to gold, if only he had given more thought to his wish, literally, everything he touched, turned to solid gold, food, water, wine and most sadly of all, his precious daughter Zoe. It is a true case of being careful what you wish for.
the Trojan Horses	a person/thing that deceives an inside group	The Greeks, who had besieged the city of Troy, pretended to retreat, leaving behind them, outside the gates of the city, a large wooden horse. The Trojans, assuming they had won the war and thinking the horse a gift, brought it inside the city, but those wily Greeks had hidden soldiers inside the horse, who sneaked out in the night, and captured the city of Troy.

More Idioms: Please find the “meanings” and “allusions” behind the famous idioms below and

share with our classmates.

1. Oedipus Complex

- meaning: _____
- allusion: _____

2. Struck by Cupid's Arrow

- meaning: _____
- allusion: _____

3. Adam's Apple

- meaning: _____
- allusion: _____

4. Echo and Narcissus

- meaning: _____
- allusion: _____

5. Herculean Effort

- meaning: _____
- allusion: _____

6. Appolo's Laureate

- meaning: _____
- allusion: _____

□ Key words in the video(p.47):

1. 法令	edict	2. 大烏鴉	raven
3. 撕碎/分裂	rend	4. 鹿角	antler
5. 挖出	gouge	6. 鞠躬盡瘁	bend to the task of
7. 違規/犯罪	transgression	8. 譴責	condemn
9. 藐視/挑釁	defiance	10. 剛出生的/缺乏經驗的	fledgling
11. 腸子/內臟	entrails	12. 發光發亮的	glistening