

Ovid Day 1: Study Questions
Hum 110, Reed College
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Literary Analysis Questions:

1. Structure. The overall structure of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* is tripartite: 1) Gods, 2) Heroes and Heroines, 3) Historical Personages. Have we seen this structure before? If so, where? What significance does it have? (Why might Ovid have chosen it?)
2. Genre. Is this an epic? (Define an epic.) If so, why? If not, why not? Does it remind you of any other genres we have read?
3. Style. Ovid is generally seen as writing on the dividing line between the Golden Latin period (Age of Augustus) and the Silver Latin period. What stylistic changes do you notice between this and the *Aeneid*.
4. Theme. Metamorphosis literally means **change** (meta) **form** (morph) **to make** (ize). **Meta** also implies a boundary or quest. What boundaries are crossed here? What significance do you find in these transgressions? How do the changes effect the reader?
5. Narrator. What is the role of the narrator/poet in this poem? How does he compare to the poet- personae we have encountered in previous poems?
6. Unity. What connects the various sections of the poem? What strategies have previous poets used for coherence? Do you see remnants of any of those here?
7. Intertextuality. When you come to a story that is a retelling of a myth we have read before, you might ask yourself: 1) what does Ovid change? 2) what is the impact of these changes? 3) how do these changes reflect the historical and cultural milieu in which Ovid wrote? 4) which version do I like better and why?

Characters to Keep Track of While Reading:

Deucalion	Cadmus
Pyrrha	Diana
Apollo	Actaeon
Daphne	Semele
Io	Bacchus
Phaethon	Tiresias
Callisto	Narcissus
Ocyrhoe	Echo
Mercury	Pentheus
Battus	Bacchus
Aglauros	
Jupiter	
Europa	