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## The 2021 Classical Association of New England Student Writing Contest

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# The 2021 Classical Association of New England Student Writing Contest

## Re-Singing Myth

Ovid begins the *Metamorphoses* by explaining that his genre-breaking epic will be about “forms changed into new bodies”. In the 15 books that follow, the poet proceeds to reinvent a panoply of Greek myths, both well-known and obscure, using his signature wit and imagination. Some of the stories he recounts according to the traditional versions, but others he changes completely in the service of different aims. In the same way, in the centuries and millennia since the body of Greco-Roman mythology was first written down, poets, authors, and artists have engaged with these myths by re-inventing them for their own contexts. For example, Luciano Garbati’s sculpture of Medusa holding the head of Perseus imagines a post-#MeToo world where the “hero” may not actually be all that heroic and the victim of sexual assault and misogyny is empowered to change her destiny. In the words of the sculptor himself when asked about the rationale behind the piece: “There are lots of depictions of Medusa, and they are always describing the myth at its worst... What would it look like, her victory, not his? How should that sculpture look?”

As we strive to bring a more just and equitable approach to studying classics, how might we re-sing the ancient tales? Whose voices have been excluded from the stories and whose stories have never been told?

**For this writing contest:** provide your own short story, poem, essay, or dialogue re-singing a myth or myths from the classical tradition. Your project will be judged holistically, based on how successfully you address the given topic, how well you engage your reader, and how well you write as you present your idea. Deadline for submission: **December 15, 2021**.

Guidelines for Students (please note all these):

- Your project may be a short story, poem, drama, or essay.
- Maximum length: 700 words.
- Your project should not be hand-written. Please provide a typed document.
- If you use any source materials for this project, you must provide a bibliography with specific references.
- Your name should not appear on the project itself.
- Please include a **cover page** with your document that contains the following information:

Name of Student

Grade of Student

Name of School

Name and Email address of Teacher

The following statement - with your name typed as signature:

*This project represents my own original work. No outside help has been provided for this project. I understand that if my entry is selected as a winner, my entry and my name will be published on the CANE website.*

*Signed:*

*Date:*

Teachers: please send your students’ submissions to your state representative for CANE (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, and VT). For the list of state representatives, see here. The winner receives their award, and reads their winning entry, at the banquet at the annual meeting banquet of CANE in spring of 2022.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the 2021-2022 NASSP List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students.