

ARACHNE AND THE WEAVING CONTEST

Answer the questions about “Arachne and the Weaving Contest.”

1. What is the theme of this myth?

- a. Cheaters never prosper.
- b. Slow and steady wins the race.
- c. Hard work always brings a reward.
- d. Vanity can lead to trouble.**

2. What details from the story help to convey this theme?

Sample answer
Arachne grows conceited about her talent with weaving, so she brags and challenges Athena to a weaving contest. Athena accepts the challenge to put Arachne in her place. Arachne loses the contest and is then cursed to live as a spider.

3. The conflict type featured in this myth is character vs. _____.

- a. character** b. nature
- c. society d. self

4. Circle three words that best describe Arachne as she is characterized in the myth.

- talented** loyal **overconfident** wise
- athletic humble **hardworking** curious

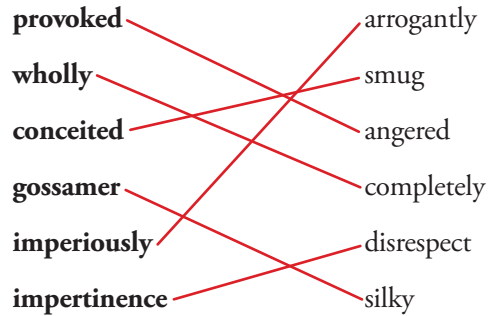
5. How does Arachne react to the old woman’s warning?

How does her reaction affect the rest of the story?
Sample answer
Arachne reacts to the old woman’s warning by confirming Athena’s suspicion that Arachne thinks she is better than the gods. She then challenges Athena, which sets the contest and all other plot events in motion.

6. In your opinion, was Arachne’s ultimate punishment appropriate? Why or why not?

Student answers will vary.

7. Draw a line to match each word from the text to its synonym.



8. Fill in the chart below with similarities and differences between Arachne and Athena.

SIMILARITIES	DIFFERENCES
Both are talented weavers.	Arachne is a human; Athena is a goddess.
Both are proud of their gifts.	Athena is powerful; Arachne is not.
Both are competitive.	