



WCCS Recommends

Tales to enlighten and illuminate

Reception (Age 4-5)

Spotting bullies

Zeus and Prometheus



Prometheus steals fire from the gods and gives it to humans.

The chief Greek God, Zeus, angry, has Prometheus tied to a rock where every day an eagle eats his liver – which every day re-grows – until the hero Heracles frees him. If bullies seek to harm and scare us, is Zeus one?

***The Orchard Book of Greek Myths* by Geraldine McCaughrean**

Year 1 (Age 5-6)

Overcoming disability

Haphaestus



Return of Hephaestus to Olympus, clay, c 525 BC

Haphaestus, son of Zeus, is born lame, and thrown into the sea by his mother. Rescued by two goddesses, he returns to Mount Olympus to make fine weapons, armour and jewellery, mastering adversity. He also becomes, unusually, a kind and peace-loving Greek god.

Hephaestus (Profiles in Greek & Roman Mythology) by Kayleen Reusser

Year 2 (Age 6-7)

Beware pride!

Lucifer's downfall, Isaiah 14: 12-15



Satan in his Original Glory, William Blake, c1805

The fall from heaven of the son of the morning, Lucifer, who sought to exalt his throne above the stars of God. In Blake's painting, above, his orb and sceptre symbolise his role as Prince of this World.

Year 3 (age 7-8)

The beauty of forgiveness

The Prodigal Son, Luke 15: 11-31

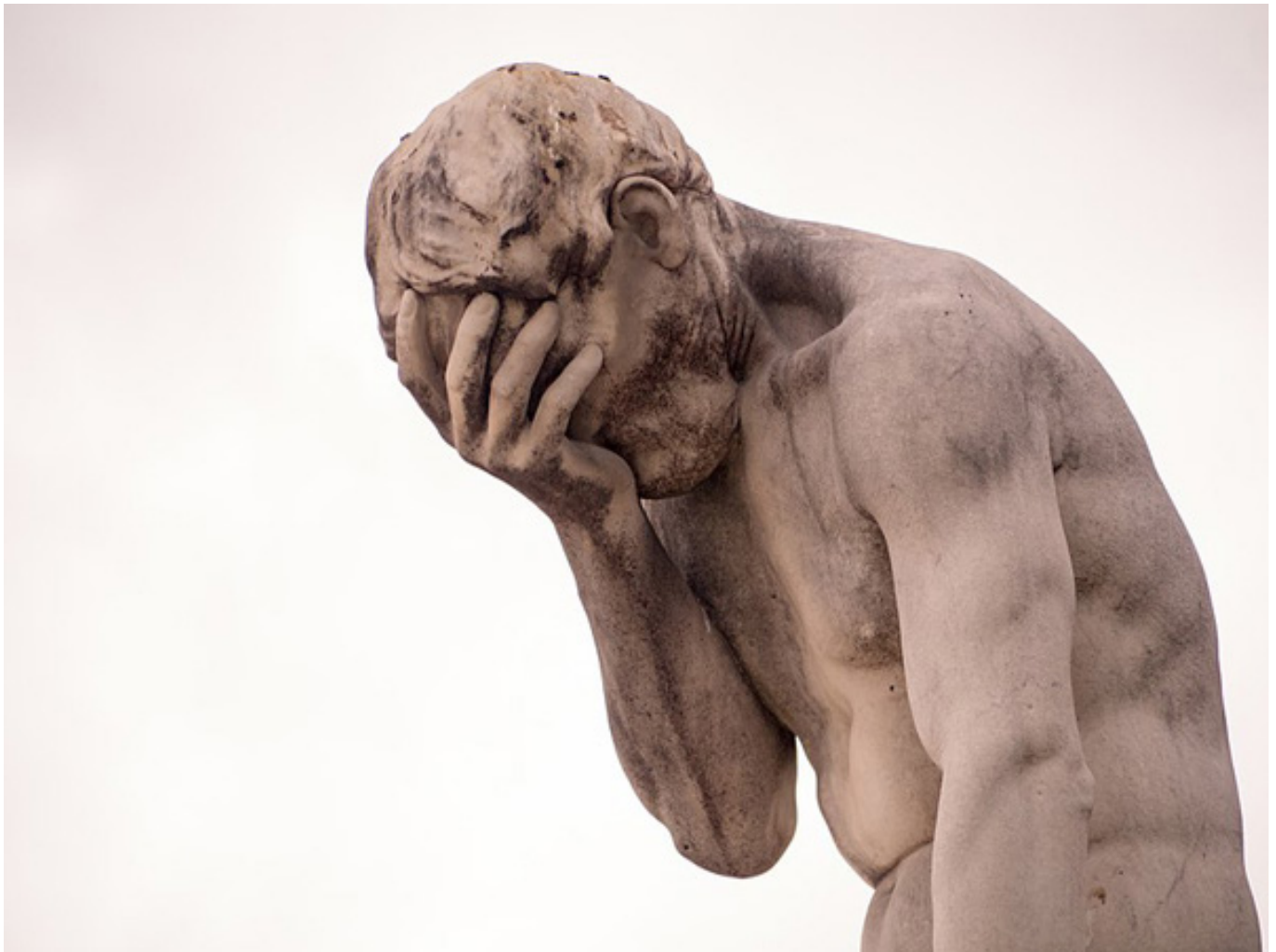


The story of two sons: the older dutiful, the younger prodigal (extravagant), and how the father's forgiveness reconciles all.

Year 4 (Age 8-9)

The perils of anger

Cain & Abel, Genesis 4: 1-16



Satan in his Original Glory, William Blake, c1805

Cain and Abel are sons of Adam and Eve: Cain, a farmer; Abel, a shepherd. God favours Abel's sacrifice, so Cain – in a fit of destructive anger and jealousy – murders Abel and, after lying to the Lord, is condemned to life as a wandering fugitive.

Year 5 (Age 9-10)

Learning sympathy

The Wrath of Achilles, from *The Iliad*



The Wrath of Achilles, 1819, Jacques-Louis David

Homer's *Iliad* is all about the consequences of Achilles's wrath: at first a fair response to the arrogance of Agamemnon, it sinks to resentment, rises to intense rage and concludes when Achilles and his enemy, King Priam, weep together for a lost friend and a lost son.

***Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad* by Rosemary Sutcliff**

Year 6 (Age 10-11)

An impious king

Belshazzar's Feast, Daniel 5: 1-30



Belshazzar's Feast, 1635, Rembrandt

During a feast, Babylonians eat and drink from the holy vessels of Yahweh's temple, and Belshazzar sees a hand writing the words *mene, mene, tekel, upharsin* on a wall. Daniel interprets the writing as a judgment from Yahweh, the god of Israel, foretelling the fall of Babylon; because Belshazzar has not given honour to God, his kingdom will be given to the Medes and Persians. He is killed that night.

Year 7 (Age 11-12)

The destiny of tyrants

Ozymandias, Percy Bysshe Shelley



Ozymandias, Shelley's famous sonnet, describes the crumbling statue of a boastful tyrant, once King of Kings, and the fate that awaits his successors.

Year 8 (Age 12-13)

Becoming a man

Telemachus in search of his father, from *The Odyssey*



Telemachus and Mentor, c18, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo

Telemachus goes in search of his father, Odysseus, who's been away for twenty years. Telemachus becomes stronger, braver and more adventurous, becoming the worthy son of his famous father: 'Good blood runs in you, dear boy,' Menelaus observes.

***The Odyssey of Homer*, Richmond Lattimore (trans)**

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