HERACLES (Greek Name) - The Greek Empire 5000-300BC

Hercules (Roman name) Rome - The Roman Empire 300BC-200AD

Zeus (god of gods) and Alcemene (human mother)

**Technically he can die**

**In reality, he can’t die because *Destiny* says he can’t**

‘A blood guilt’-Hercules kills his wife and children. Hera made him do it.

**The Oracle of Delphi – a character in myths who is a link between the gods and humans**

*Herculean task-idiom*

***The 12 Labours of Hercules* (Labors-US Spelling).**

**1-4 Theme of first tasks –man v nature**

**1. Lion of Nemea.** Beats it with strength. Uses the skin as protection.

**2. 9 Headed Hydra.** If you cut the head off, 2 grow back. Linked to sexual thought.He uses intelligence. He sealed the head with the hot blade. He dips the arrows in the poisoned blood.

**3. The Golden Stag of Artemus.** He has to use speed.

**4. Man eating boar.** He kills it

**5 The foul side of human nature**

**5. Clean a stable of raw sewage in 1 day. He is using intelligence and strength.**

**6 Man’s unreachable goals**

**6. Man eating birds. He uses the poisonous arrows.**

**7-9 Are foreign based**

**7. Kill King Minos’s bull.**

**8. The Golden Stag of Artemus to take the Manes of Diomedes**

**9. He has to kill the Amazons (female warriors) and steal a belt.**

**10. Geryon cattle. He must travel a long way, and break a mountain open. He uses the poisoned arrows again.**

**11-12 The hardest**

**11. Must travel to The Underworld and capture Cerberus. He uses only his hands. Raw human strength.**

**12. Steal the golden apples. He walks for 4 years but can’t find them. He finds Atlas and tricks him to carry the earth again. Perseverance and intelligence.**

He still feels guilty (Hera won’t let him off). He decides to do. After committing suicide, Zeus invites him to be a god.

Intelligent brave determined *(overcome the odds)*

*Tragedy*