**SCENE 1**

*HERACLES is outside a farmhouse in Thebes. It is early morning. He is tending to household chores. His mother, ALCMENE, exits the house and calls to him.*

**ALCMENE:**

Heracles!

**HERACLES:**

Mom!

**ALCMENE:**

Why are you busy with chores so early?

**HERACLES:**

Because we live on a farm. A day without labor would mean certain death.

**ALCMENE:**

We’ll deal with that later. Come inside. I have a surprise for you.

*ALCMENE enters the house. HERACLES follows.*

**SCENE 2**

*Inside the farmhouse. It is a small kitchen/dining room, well-kept but cramped and quaint. There is a pile of pastries on the table.*

**ALCMENE:**

Happy birthday!

**HERACLES:**

Pastries! How can we afford these?

**ALCMENE:**

I saved some money from work. The tapestry business has been paying well.

**HERACLES:**

I wondered why you’ve been working so many nights.

**ALCMENE:**

Yes, I’ve been hard at work weaving tapestries… Happy Birthday!

**HERACLES:**

Thanks mom! These are delicious!

**ALCMENE:**

Heracles, now that you’re old enough, I think it’s time I tell you the story of your father.

**HERACLES:**

I thought I already knew that story. You and dad were in love and nearly married, but he was killed in battle before I was born.

**ALCMENE:**

That’s … one version of the story.

**SCENE 3**

*The farmhouse at night. It appears new, and the garden is in full bloom. There is a single lamp lit in the window of the kitchen. Stars and constellations twinkle in the sky.*

**ALCMENE (off-screen):**

I met him when I was young and we were very much in love. We lived together happily for a whole summer.

*View changes to a baby HERACLES in a cradle.*

**ALCMENE (off-screen):**

When you were born, he told me the truth. He was a very powerful, rich, and married man. He knew you would grow up to be the ruler of the land.

*View changes back to the farmhouse at night. The lamp in the window has been extinguished. As ALCMENE speaks, a shooting star flies from the ground into the sky.*

**ALCMENE (off-screen):**

He had to return home when the winter came, and I haven’t seen or spoken to him since.

**SCENE 4**

*Return to inside the farmhouse. ALCMENE and HERACLES sit at a table with a single pastry remaining on it.*

**HERACLES:**

That’s very different from the story you told me at bedtime when I was little.

**ALCMENE:**

I know, I’m sorry for lying to you.

**HERACLES:**

Why did you hide it from me?

**ALCMENE:**

Your father’s wife is a very jealous woman, and I was worried that, if you called too much attention to yourself, she would smite you.

**HERACLES:**

Surely only the gods could smite me!

**ALCMENE:**

Heracles.

**HERACLES:**

Yes?

**ALCMENE:**

You are the son of Zeus.

**HERACLES:**

What—Zeus? Zeus, Lord of Lighting and King of Olympus?

*Lightning and thunder crash outside, despite a clear sky.*

**ALCMENE:**

Yes, now that you have come of age I fear that you are a greater threat to his wife, Hera, more than ever.

**HERACLES:**

A threat? I am only a farmer.

**ALCMENE:**

If you remain a farmer much longer Hera will destroy you.

**HERACLES:**

What can I do?

**ALCMENE:**

You must travel to Olympus so you can remind Zeus who you are and he can claim you as his son. Here take this, it was a gift from Zeus.

*HERACLES receives a weapon—club, sword, bow, etc*

**SCENE 5**

*Return to outside the farmhouse. HERACLES is armored and prepared for his journey. ALCMENE waves from the threshold.*

**ALCMENE:**

Travel safely, come home soon!

**HERACLES:**

This is a lot to drop on a guy in one morning but sure, bye mom.

*This can lead into a tutorial level of traversing the plains and climbing Mt. Olympus*

**SCENE 6 / TUTORIAL: TO OLYMPUS**

*HERACLES begins on the plains. On the road, he finds a statue of HERMES, god of travelers.*

**HERACLES:**

O Hermes, I have no idea what I’m doing. How do I get to Mount Olympus?

*HERMES appears / STATUE OF HERMES awakens / whatever works. He directs HERACLES with a couple walking prompts.*

**HERMES:**

Just follow me!

*HERMES proceeds to show the player how to walk, grab things, and hit things. Maybe HERACLES helps a farmer catch one of his escaped animals as a tutorial capture level. Soon, they arrive at the base of a mountain.*

**HERACLES:**

It’s even taller up close.

**HERMES:**

That’s how mountains work.

**HERACLES:**

How do I climb it?

**HERMES:**

Like this.

*A click prompt appears. Player clicks, HERACLES jumps onto the mountain.*

**HERMES:**

Any point you click on becomes the arc of your jump. Try it again!

*Player progresses through two or three more click prompts and progresses slowly up the mountain.*

**HERACLES:**

Wow, this is pretty easy.

**HERMES:**

You have unnaturally powerful thighs for a mortal.

**HERMES:**

…

**HERMES:**

Remember, if you need me at any point on your travels, you can call on me for help.

**HERACLES:**

Thanks!

*HERMES flies off or something. Player continues up the mountain.*

**SCENE 7**

*ZEUS’ throne room on Olympus. The floor is ringed with clouds; the furniture is all gold and silver. ZEUS sits on a large throne; HERA sits on a similar throne to his left. Various other gods and attendants are present. HERACLES enters.*

**ZEUS:**

Who let this peasant in?

**HERACLES:**

Almighty Zeus! Lord of Lightning, King of Olympus!

*Lightning and thunder crash outside, despite a clear sky.*

**HERACLES:**

I have come from Thebes. I am the son of the fair matron Alcmene, who informed me only this morning that you, mighty Zeus, are my father.

**HERA:**

This again.

**ZEUS:**

I know no woman by that name.

**HERACLES:**

She gave me this as I left. She told me it was a gift from you.

*HERACLES presents his weapon. HERA becomes visibly angered—a stormcloud above her, red & steaming, whatever works.*

**HERA:**

‘Lost it in a battle’? I should have known you were on another one of your trysts!

*HERA storms out. Two handmaids follow.*

**HERACLES:**

She seems upset.

**ZEUS:**

Listen, boy, I don’t remember anything, and since you weren’t alive at the time that this alleged affair occurred, you can’t possibly pin anything on me. You have no evidence.

**HERACLES:**

That’s reasonable.

**ZEUS:**

Since you’ve angered by wife, I must ask you to leave, but if you leave me along and stop accusing me of sleeping around with mortals, I might favor you in the future.

**ZEUS:**

What did you say your name was?

**HERACLES:**

My mother is Alcmene of Thebes. I am Heracles, named after the goddess Hera, for I was conceived in love.

**ZEUS:**

That does sound like something I would do.

**HERACLES:**

What?

**ZEUS:**

No need to grovel for attention, young man. I’m sure it was a struggle to get here. Since you made it this far, I’m willing to grant you a fighting chance.

**HERACLES:**

You want me to fight someone?

**ZEUS:**

Woah, chill out. You’re just a farmer. You’ve probably never fought anyone in your life.

**HERACLES:**

I never said I was a farmer.

**ZEUS:**

I—uh—visit Thebes sometimes. I must have seen you around.

**ZEUS:**

Anyway, I’m going to give you a task to prove yourself.

**HERACLES:**

What do you want me to do?

**ZEUS:**

There is a lion that has made its home roaming the fields of Nemea. It is eating all the wild animals and terrorizing the travelers that pass through the region. I want you to slay it before it does any more harm.

**HERACLES:**

That sounds way easier than fighting someone.

**ZEUS:**

Totally. Run along, and if you manage to kill the lion, come back and see how I feel.

**HERACLES:**

If?

**ZEUS:**

See you later!

*HERACLES is escorted from the throne room by a guard. HERA reenters.*

**HERA:**

Did you name him after me in the hopes that I would be less harsh on you?

**ZEUS:**

I don’t remember anything!

**HERA:**

Who else could he belong to? Only demigods can climb Olympus!

**ZEUS:**

I swear on my lightning, I remember nothing.

**HERA:**

Humph.

*HERA exits. Other gods and attendants follow, leaving ZEUS alone in the throne room.*

**ZEUS:**

Hm.

**ZEUS:**

Alcmene of Thebes.

**SCENE 8 / LEVEL 1: THE NEMEAN LION**

*HERACLES travels from the bottom of the mountain and across the plains. Perhaps he encounters his first enemy here and is taught by HERMES how to attack. Finally, he arrives at a rocky area. There is a single cave, from which the lion emerges. It roars. HERACLES is startled. Boss music begins and HERACLES must fight the lion.*

*When the lion is defeated, triumphant music plays. HERACLES celebrates.*

**HERACLES:**

I killed the lion!

*HERMES appears.*

**HERMES:**

You’ve done it!

*HERMES transforms the lion into a lionskin pelt for HERACLES to wear.*

**HERMES:**

Take this to Mount Olympus to prove the completion of your labor.

**SCENE 9**

*ZEUS’ throne room. ZEUS and HERA are seated on their thrones with the usual attendants. HERACLES stands before them, wearing his lionskin.*

**HERACLES:**

I have slain the Nemean Lion!

**HERA:**

This doesn’t look like you got rid of him.

**ZEUS:**

I’m working on it.

**ZEUS:**

Heracles, you have accomplished the first part of your task!

**HERACLES:**

The first part? What more is there?

**ZEUS:**

I want you too—um—

**ZEUS:**

A terrific beast has taken up residence in the Lernaean swamps. I want you to kill it!

**HERACLES:**

What kind of terrific beast?

**ZEUS:**

A hydra—a lizard with three heads on necks like snakes.

**HERACLES:**

That doesn’t sound so bad.

**ZEUS:**

Run along, and if you manage to kill the hydra, come back and see how I feel.

*HERACLES is escorted from the room by a guard.*

**HERA:**

Killing him doesn’t mean you didn’t cheat.

**ZEUS:**

I don’t know what you’re talking about.

**HERA:**

*Sigh.*

**SCENE 10 / LEVEL 2: THE LERNAEAN HYDRA**

*HERACLES travels through a swampy biome until he encounters the hydra. It is much larger than himself. Its heads move and hiss throughout the fight. Boss music begins. HERACLES must jump on and kill each head individually (or whatever unique boss mechanic we want to use here).*

*When the hydra is defeated, triumphant music plays. HERACLES celebrates.*

**HERACLES:**

I’ve killed the hydra!

*HERMES appears. He presents the hydra’s three heads in a basket to HERACLES.*

**HERMES:**

Take this to Mount Olympus to prove the completion of your labor.

*8. Bull scene*

**H:** Ok, so now how do I capture this bull?

**Herm:** Fist you’re going to jump and you can throw the bull just like you jump. But you must throw him into a hole.

*Player Plays until bull is in the hole. Travels to the next thing.*

*9. Stables scene*

**H:** These stables stink, King.

**K:** Why don’t you go clean them then?

*Goes to the stables.*

**H:** How am I going to clean this?

**Herm:** It’s ya boi Hermes again! You see that river? Divert it!

*Water floods the stables*