**Reflection Essay on A New Job**

My chosen submitted piece, *A New Job*, is a piece of work that took heavy inspiration from Rick Riordan’s take on Greek Mythology in his *Percy Jackson* Series. While Greek Mythology served as my basis, the biggest points that served as a catalyst to my writing was to provide a twist and use a not known god, Hypnos, to serve as my main character. This led to me to research a lot of stories, personalities and artwork of Hypnos and see what I had to work with. Given that there was not a lot to work with, I had to be creative in my approach and fill in a few holes. I had to take what we do know of his personality, kind and gentle, and add more layers to that. This was shown through the saving of the hunter act. As for the major twist, my thought process landed on the idea of hiding who the characters were exactly whilst providing a few elaborate clues as to who the characters were. After the climax of the story, I then revealed all the loose plot holes and mysteries I introduce throughout the story, such as the unknown reward. The reason I chose the climax to be the act of putting Zeus to sleep was we already know Hypnos pulled this act twice, there could be a lot of comedic and creatives takes whilst providing a strong basis. Finally, I tried to make the motives of Hera (the wife) clear and creative while staying true to her personality I know from mythology. Hence, I stuck with the usual affair of Zeus but added more depth to it. Following the workshop, there was quite a bit of feedback from both the Professor and my Group Members that needed to be fixed and edited. During editing, I mostly followed Burroways’ idea to ask myself various questions regarding the scenes and actions. I generally tried to stick to a comedic, yet typical adventure styled writing akin to that of a video game (Start, Side Quest, Main Quest and Ending).

Firstly, the biggest edits I made were mostly surface-level edits. This includes fixing of grammar, punctuation, dialogue issues, and removing tense issue. While grammar and punctuation were rather simple edits to go over, the latter two were a lot more difficult to notice and change without shifting my main idea. For dialogue issues (ranging from internal monologues to characters talking), the biggest feedback I had gotten from various people was to read the lines out loud and see if it made sense. One line that stood out from this method was “She was definitely elegant, with that authoritative, mature look that comes with age. Although, her personality really leaves a lot to be desired”. Initially, the line said “She was definitely elegant, with that authoritative mature look that comes with age although the latter’s effects are not.” At first it did not feel off but after another readthrough later, it was clear that something needed to be changed with Hypnos’ inner monologue. Therefore, the changed line expanded more on the contrast between Hera’s beauty and her not so beautiful personality. As for tense issues, many of the tense issues have been pointed out by the commented manuscript provided by the Professor and with another read through, changed as much as I though could cause issue. With all the changes I made to the dialogues and tenses, it should not to distract the reader from the story and help maintain their interest.

Secondly, the next major concern presented was with the sequence involving the hunter and his dog. As mentioned above, the main intent of the was to show Hypnos’ kind and gentle side. However, the intent was initially clear to some of the readers while being clear to others. Another issue that arose was many questioned the significance of the scene due to its length within the story. For this, I added a few more lines in various places calling back to the scene such as during the climax. Then, towards the end, I reveal who exactly the girl was and even was able to add a bit more comedy to the sequence via the brother Thanatos and the gift basket. “The mere sight of Death carrying a fruit basket with bright flowers really clashed with his appearance.” This added quote from the story was a fusion of my voice and the narrator’s voice which I felt could work well and could make the conclusion a bit more satisfying. With the added ending sequence and a few hints of what this act could do, I hoped to raise its significance which I felt fitting and doesn’t take away from the main arc.

Finally, following the above paragraphs final point, the conclusion was an issue to some. Although there were a few issues noted by others, the issues were a bit minimal. Personally, I also had a few issues with the ending as I struggled to reveal the plot twists and make the readers feel satisfied with it. Initially, the reveal was to happen in the first line in which a minor character, the MC’s wife, casually reveals the twist but many of the issues stemmed from that line. It did not feel natural or felt odd considering the two were married. I made a slight change there to make it feel a bit more intimate as attempted by the line“ “Welcome back, dear” my wife says ”. Initially, the wife said Lord Hypnos, but it felt unnatural, so I moved the plot reveal to the next line in hopes it felt better. After the editing of the ending and ending on a more comedic note than the previous draft, I personally felt more satisfied with the ending than before.

Concluding my reflections, I felt the workshops and the guidance of the professor via the meetings and commented manuscripts really opened my eyes to the process of writing and how much fun yet tiring it can be. The readings assigned to us throughout the semester have helped tremendously. The workshops also helped me notice issues I would not have noticed at all due to my own understanding of the story vs the readers. This helped ease the difficulty of working on the final draft and allowed me to help solve issues the readers had while clearing a few of my own doubts.