

Evolving Echoes: A Text Analysis of Greek Myth Retellings Across Time

Grant Proposal

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INTRODUCTION

Abstract

Greek mythology has exerted a profound influence on Western literature, art, and culture, shaping collective narratives and moral frameworks for millennia. In every society, we raise children by telling them stories of heroes, adventure, magic, and divinity to teach them the difference between good and bad. Stories of gods, heroes, and monsters have not remained static; they have evolved through centuries of retelling, reinterpretation, and adaptation to the modern world. Using the result of this project we can hypothesize the major changes in cultural norms throughout time. These stories shape the upbringing of the future generation which paints the structure of society and the evolution in these stories is an indirect portrayal of how societies are evolving. This project seeks to use the tools and techniques in the field of digital humanities to trace the transformation of Greek myth across literature. We will start with ancient narratives and focus on how they have been retold in various cultural, historical, and linguistic contexts. We aim to analyze both early modern versions such as Homer's *Odyssey* to contemporary adaptations such as Rick Riordan's young adult fictional novels. The research will combine text analysis and other computational methods such as topic modelling, sentiment analysis, and social network analysis to uncover the patterns in language, themes, character relationships, and moral outlooks across different time periods. Through this exploration the project aims to answer the following big research questions:

- How have the themes and moral lessons of Greek myths shifted across historical periods?
- How have the portrayal of key figures like Perseus, Apollo, Zeus, Hades, Medusa, Odysseus, Achilles, etc., changed over time?
- How does language use and sentiment in modern retelling compare to the ancient sources?
- What are the most significant structural and relational changes in the narratives over time?
- How do these transformations reflect the changing values and concerns of the societies that retell them?

By combining computational tools such as Voyant Tools, Mallet, Infinite Craft, Google Embedding Projector, Python, and R, this project will map the evolution of Greek myths and

illuminate how cultural, political, and social changes have reshaped the telling of these foundational stories.

Overview

Greek mythology forms one of the cornerstones of Western literary and philosophical traditions. From the epic poetry of Homer and Hesiod to the dramatic tragedies of Sophocles and Euripides, Greek myths have provided a rich corpus for exploring human nature, fate, and morality. Over centuries these myths have been retold and reinterpreted by authors, playwrights, and artists, each generation adding a unique layer of their interpretation over the original version building a multi-dimensional manifold of Greek myth. While the stories, songs, plays, and television adaptations of figures like Achilles, Odysseus, Perseus, Apollo, and Medusa remained recognizable, their portrayals, moral undertones, and narrative structures have evolved in response to the changing political, social, and philosophical landscape.

Statement Of Innovation

Despite the vast body of research on Greek mythology, relatively little work has systematically traced the evolution of mythic narratives using computational tools. Traditional approaches to mythological studies have focused primarily on close reading and literary analysis, often confined to a specific author, period, or theme. However, the rise of digital humanities and natural language processing (NLP) techniques presents an opportunity to study Greek myth as a dynamic, evolving corpus.

This project stands out by blending traditional literary analysis of Greek myths with cutting-edge digital humanities tools, offering a novel methodology for examining the transformations of classical literature. We expect the computational resources at our disposal will reveal hidden trends and insights that would have been difficult to expose using traditional means. Moreover, this project will produce interactive visualization and accessible tools that allow users and future scholars to explore the evolution of these myths in an innovative way.

Statement of Humanities Significance

This research is significant for the humanities fields as it offers a deeper understanding of the role of Greek mythology in shaping the cultural identity and values over time. As it is well known, Greek myth has had quite an influence on literature, art, and thought, but their retelling is not merely a process of repetition. This could be generalized for the idea of “myth” as a thought or some sort of folk story which is used to guide children to the right path. Myths are often

associated with the idea of being devotional or magical but in the end, myth always indirectly structures the society. The retelling of myths involves active reinterpretation that reflects norms of each era. This paper, however, focuses mainly on the evolution of Greek myth specifically due to the result of the chosen corpus. By analyzing these shifts, the project sheds light on how societies negotiate issues like power, politics, morality, and heroism. In addition, the project will accentuate how modern adaptions manage to achieve originality while preserving the core ancient narratives.

Expected Audience and Outcomes

Expected Audience

The findings of this project will be of interest to a large range of academic personals, artists, and scholars, as well as the public audiences, including

- **Classics and Literature Scholars:** Researchers studying Greek mythology, classic literature and comparative literature will benefit from the insight into how mythological narratives have evolved over time and how they reflect changing morals of social values.
- **Digital Humanities Researchers:** Scholars and practitioners in the digital humanities field will find value in the project's methodological approach, particularly the combination of text analysis, topic modelling, social network analysis, and word embedding to examine the narrative evolution.
- **Historians and Cultural Critics:** Historians interested in the transition of cultural values and the reinterpretation of classical themes across time periods will gain insights into how historical contexts influence mythological adaptation.
- **Creative Writers and Adaptation Specialists:** Authors, playwrights, and screenwriters who engage in Greek myth in their creative work can use this project's findings to understand how contemporary retellings align or diverge from the original ones.
- **Anthropologists and Cultural Scientists:** Scientists studying clusters of cultures in different paths will benefit from the results of this project to understand the shift in the cultural values over time.
- **General Public and Mythology Enthusiasts:** The project's findings will also appeal to a broader audience interested in mythology and storytelling, providing a clearer understanding of how ancient myths continue to shape modern culture.

Expected Outcomes

The project aims to produce several concrete and meaningful outcomes.

- **Research Paper:** A comprehensive research paper detailing the project's findings, including the evolution of themes, character portrayals, and narrative structure in Greek myth.
- **Digital Visualization Tools:** An interactive online tool like the Google embedding projector, Claude AI's social network analysis, and Infinite Craft to visualize changes in language, sentiment, character relationships and development.
- **Conference Presentation:** A presentation of meaningful findings at an academic meet or conference on digital humanities or classical studies to share project's methodology and findings with other scholars.
- **Publications:** Submission of the research findings to a peer-reviewed journal in the fields of classics and digital humanities or comparative literature or cultural anthropological fields.
- **Educational Resource:** Development of a resource for classroom use, illustrating how Greek myths have evolved over time and encouraging students to explore narrative adaptations.

These outcomes will contribute to both the academic study of Greek mythology and the growing field of digital humanities, offering a model for how computational methods can enhance the study of literature and cultural evolution.

LITERATURE NARRATIVE

Greek mythology has been preserved primarily through epic poetry like the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, didactic poetry, and tragic plays. This reflects the values and social structures of ancient Greek society, including notions of honor, fate, and divinity which essentially was viewed as the god's influence on human affairs. Ancient Greek myth texts primarily focus on the heroic code, where personal glory and social status are attained through martial prowess and adherence to obligations. The role of sacrifice essentially becomes a symbol of cultivation and civilization. Some texts emphasize the virtues of hard work and justice. Greek tragedies often present a more complex view of fate and morality portraying heroes torn between the divine will and personal agency.

Greek mythology has been a long source of inspiration for writers, artists, and philosophers, with its themes of heroism, morality, fate, and power resonating across millennia. Yet, while these myths originated in antiquity, their retellings have been reinterpreted countless times, reflecting the changing ideals of different societies across eras. In modern retelling the focus is on personal journey and the importance of individualism. It explores the timeless human struggles and the archetypal characters often through the contemporary lens while also reinterpreting and commenting on changing social and cultural issues. Oftentimes the human nature and morality is dissected through the lens of flawed gods and heroes, and the consequence of their action which is vastly different from the ancient stories where the god's word was seen as the ultimatum. There is a constant presence of the conflict between fate and free will and the consequence of hubris. Many illustrations depict the danger of arrogance and defying the gods as the character who faces severe consequences. Love, betrayal, and relationships often involving gods and mortals are a recurring theme exploring the complexities of human relationships and the potential for both joy and heartbreak. This often comments on the modern society commenting on issues such as classism, fascism, and capitalistic values.

Research Goals and Significance

The research will focus on several core goals

Comparative Analysis

This project will conduct a comprehensive comparative analysis of classical texts like Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and modern retellings like Rick Riordan's *Tales of Apollo*, Madeline Miller's

Circe. Through this comparison, the project will investigate how themes of heroism, power, fate, and identity are treated in both sets of texts. Classical Greek Myth often centers on the heroic journey as a test of strength, intelligence, perseverance, and destiny, while modern interpretations frequently frame these journeys through a more personal and emotionally complex lens. For example, Homer's heroes like Achilles and Odysseus embody physical strength and divine favor as the key to success, whereas modern heroes like Apollo in Riordan's work struggle more with internal conflicts and emotional growth alongside physical traits.

A key aspect of this analysis will involve highlighting the similarities and the differences between the two sets of texts. It will involve examining the structure and success or failure rates of these heroic journeys. In ancient texts, the journey's outcome is often depicted as a fulfillment of fate of a prophecy or a divine will. On the other hand, the modern texts emphasize personal growth and the struggle for self-determination. Analyzing patterns of success and failures across classical and modern texts will shed light on how societal values surrounding achievement and struggles have shifted over time.

Textual and Thematic Shift

This project will also examine the shifts in narrative focus and thematic content between classical and modern Greek myth stories. Ancient myths often revolved around divine will and unalterable nature of fate with god's influence being absolute and the hero's actions ultimately serving to fulfill a predetermined destiny. In contrast, the modern retellings tend to grapple with more human-centered approach to these stories even when the main character might be a cosmic being. They tend to revolve around the themes of personal agency, emotional complexity, and identity. Heroes in modern retelling are more likely to struggle with self-doubt, moral ambiguity, and interpersonal relationships reflecting a cultural shift towards the awareness of mental health problems, valuing vulnerability and emotional resilience and self-awareness over sheer strength and divine favor.

By focusing on these the project will reveal how changing social, political, and philosophical values of different periods are reflected in the ways these myths are told. For example, Achilles' anger and grief in *Iliad* are portrayed as inevitable consequence of his divine nature whereas Percy Jackson faces internal conflicts and challenges of navigating personal relationships alongside eternal dangers. The shift from fate-driven narrative to a character-driven structure reflects broader cultural shift in the definition of success and virtue.

Digital Tools and Analysis

To conduct this analysis efficiently and accurately, the project will employ a large range of computational text analysis tools, including text mining, natural language processing (NLP), sentiment analysis, and topic modelling. These tools will allow for the identification of patterns and trends in language use, sentiment, and thematic content that would be difficult to detect through traditional close reading. Some of the key features of sentiment analysis would be to track the tone of the characters which would help us see the changing views of the society. When the ancient society viewed brutality as a sign of power, the new modern society views vulnerability as being mature. Topic modelling, on the other hand, will reveal how the emphasis of different themes such as power, fate, love, adventure, etc. evolved over time. Ancient society viewed sacrifice or tragedy as sign of success whereas the modern society thrives on fighting battles together and equality being spread as success.

Sentiment analysis will be particularly useful in tracking changes in tones and emotional content. For example, classical texts often present violence and tragedy as necessary and even noble outcomes to fulfill one's fate. The modern texts, on the other hand, are more likely to present emotional dilemma and a moral conflict. Topic modelling, using Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA), Voyant tools, and MALLET will help identify cluster of thematic content across the corpus of classical and modern texts. For example, classical myths may cluster around themes of divine intervention and heroic duty, while modern retellings may show a greater focus on individual choice, emotional resilience, and interpersonal relationships. The ability to identify these thematic clusters quantitatively will provide a clearer picture of how the narrative and moral frameworks of Greek myths have shifted in response to changing cultural and philosophical values.

Some Expected Challenges

This type of computational analysis also presents several challenges. Differences in language, punctuation norms, and narrative structure between ancient and modern texts will require the use of advanced NLP techniques to standardize the texts and create a consistent analytical framework. Classical texts, for instance, may use archaic language and formal poetic structures, whereas modern retellings are more likely to feature conversational language and contemporary idioms. Successfully bridging this linguistic gap will require careful pre-processing and normalization of the text data.

Greek myths are highly symbolic and often carry multiple layers of meaning that a basic sentiment or topic model might fail to capture. For example, a seemingly violent or tragic event may carry positive connotations in a classical context as a fulfillment of heroic destiny, while the same event may be framed as morally complex or tragic in a modern retelling. Developing an analytical model capable of recognizing these nuanced interpretations will be essential for producing accurate and meaningful results.

By synthesizing these findings, the project will contribute to a deeper understanding of how Greek myths have served as living texts, constantly being reshaped to reflect the needs and values of different audiences. The combination of comparative literary analysis and computational methods will offer a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the evolution of Greek myths and their continuing relevance in modern culture. Additionally, this project will demonstrate the potential of computational methods to analyze large literary corpora efficiently, opening new avenues for research in classical studies, literary analysis, and digital humanities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

In order to understand the landscape of existing research and frameworks that inform this project, we must examine several key areas: (1) classical Greek mythology and its retellings, (2) modern reinterpretations of these myths, (3) digital humanities applications in literature, and (4) computational text analysis of literary data. Each of these areas contains valuable precedents for the methods and questions posed by this project.

1. Reflexivity and New Metanarratives. Contemporary English-Language Retellings of

Classical Mythology. Katarzyna Szmigiero, open access article licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No Derivatives 4.0 International. Reflexivity refers to the critical self-awareness present in the act of retelling, where the author acknowledges not just the story being told but also the context and mode of storytelling itself. Contemporary authors often use self-conscious adaptations of classical mythology as a way to reflect on modern identity, gender dynamics, and power structures.

2. Homeric Epic Studies. Research on Odyssey often centers on the themes of heroism,

fate, and divine intervention. Works such as **“Fate, Free Will, and Justice in Homer’s *Iliad*”** by James Griffin and **“Heroism and the Human Condition in the *Odyssey*”** by Elizabeth A. Fowler (2003) explore the portrayal of heroism in Homeric epics. These studies provide crucial context for comparing how modern retellings engage or diverge from these themes.

3. Digital Humanities and Computational Literary Studies. The HathiTrust Digital

Library, the Gutenberg Project etc. are some platforms where we could get access to a large corpus to begin the analysis for our project. The platform has been crucial for scholars in the fields of classical studies and literature, offering digital versions of primary texts that can be analyzed using computational methods. This resource will be fundamental in sourcing the ancient texts for comparison with modern retellings.

Similarly, The WE1S is a large-scale computational project focused on digital analysis and offers a methodological precedent for using digital analysis methods to study the emotional tone and character portrayal in Greek myth retellings. This will inform the analysis of emotional shifts in classical texts versus modern reimagining, particularly when studying how characters like Circe, Achilles, Apollo, and Percy are portrayed.

4. Franco Moretti's, Graphs, Maps, Trees: Abstract Models for Literary History. His approach to "distant reading," where large corpora of texts are analyzed using computational tools instead of close reading, will be critical to the project's methodological approach. By using Moretti's model of distant reading, this project will be able to analyze large-scale patterns in the evolution of mythological retellings, identifying changes in narrative structure and thematic focus that might not be immediately obvious through traditional methods of close reading.

5. Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA). To strengthen the comparative analysis, the project will apply qualitative content analysis methods, as described by Zhang and Wildemuth (n.d.). The project will create a controlled vocabulary of labels such as *heroism, fate, power, and betrayal*, and encode the texts accordingly. This will allow for systematic counting and pattern analysis of these themes across the corpus. This method will provide a structured framework for identifying patterns in how myths are adapted and reinterpreted over time. For example, if *heroism* appears more frequently in ancient texts in the context of divine favor, but more often in modern retellings in the context of personal resilience, this suggests a significant shift in the understanding of heroism.

The resources stated above provide a clear foundation for this project proposal analyzing the evolution of Greek myth and its impact on the structure of society. The innovation lies in merging distant reading with close comparison of thematic shifts, sentiments, and character portrayals. By combining computational text analysis with qualitative content analysis the project will capture both the broad, high level patterns in language, tone, and thematic evolution and also the in depth nuances of character development and the narrative structure.

CONCLUSION

While previous research has often focused on either close reading of individual texts or broad thematic analysis across large corpora, this project aims to integrate both techniques. The project's computational methods, including sentiment analysis, topic modeling, and concordance analysis, will enhance the scope and precision of this analysis. The project will contribute to a deeper understanding of how Greek myths have served as living texts, constantly reshaped to reflect the values and concerns of different historical periods. The project's interdisciplinary approach, combining computational analysis with qualitative content analysis and literary interpretation, will create a comprehensive framework for studying mythological adaptation and cultural transmission. This innovative methodology will not only clarify how Greek myths have changed but also reveal the underlying cultural and ideological forces driving these transformations.

APPENDIX

The materials for this project will consist of a selection of **texts** (primary and secondary) based on the retelling of Greek mythology, spanning a range of literary forms including modern novels, poems, and digital resources. The project will specifically focus on:

1. **Primary Texts:** Modern retellings of Greek myths in literary works, such as:
 - *Circe* by Madeline Miller
 - *Iliad* by Homer
 - *Odyssey* by Homer
 - *Mythos* by Stephen Fry
 - *The Trials of Apollo* by Rick Riordan
 - *Percy Jackson series* by Rick Riordan
 - *The Alchemist* by Ben Johnson
 - *The Tales of Troy and Greece* by Andrew Lang
 - *Persephone of Eleusis* by Claire Winger Harris
 - *Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller
 - *Tragedies of Seneca* by Lucius Annaeus
 - *House of Pomegranates* by Oscar Wilde
 - *Tales of Trojan Women* by Euripides
 - Translations and adaptations of classical Greek myths from authors such as Edith Hamilton and Robert Graves, as well as online resources like the *Perseus Digital Library*.
2. **Secondary Texts:** Scholarly articles, analyses, and reviews of these modern retellings, focusing on themes like reflexivity, metanarratives, and myth adaptation. These secondary texts will provide contextual understanding and comparative analysis of how myths have evolved in modern retellings.

Below are the screenshots of some initial analysis:

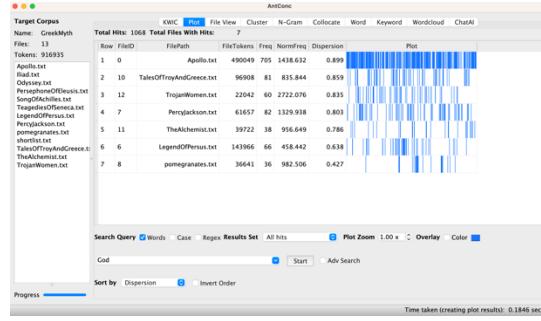


Figure 1: Screenshot of plot of the occurrence of the word "God" in the given text files.

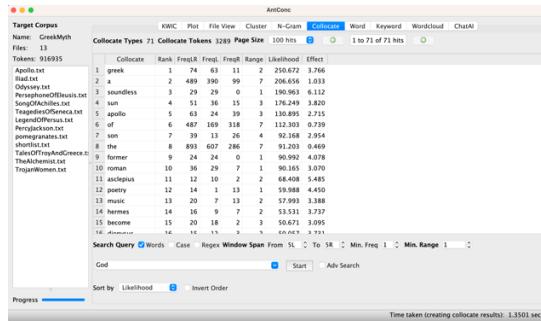


Figure 2: Collocate of the word God meaning what are the words it appears most around.

Below is the list of words that I used to advance search in AntConc:

Power
Titan
Trident
Troy

Figure 3: List of words used to advance search in AntConc

Achilles
Apollo
God
Goddess

Figure 4: List of words used to advance search in AntConc

God
Goddess
Hades
Olympus

Figure 5: List of words used to advance search in AntConc

Below is the graph of the occurrences of these specific words throughout the books in the corpus.

Notice how the modern books use these words more way more than the ancient texts.

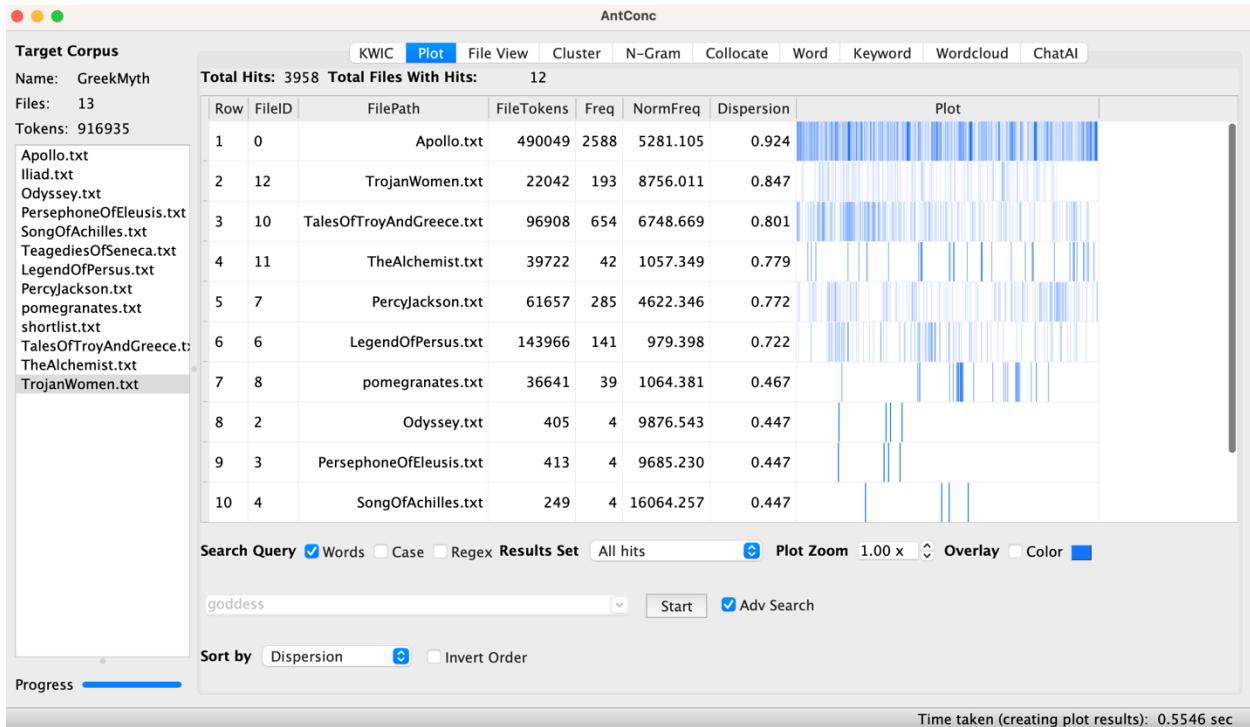


Figure 6: Plot using advance search words listed above

I also tested some words such as fate, destiny, and divinity, the result of that was:

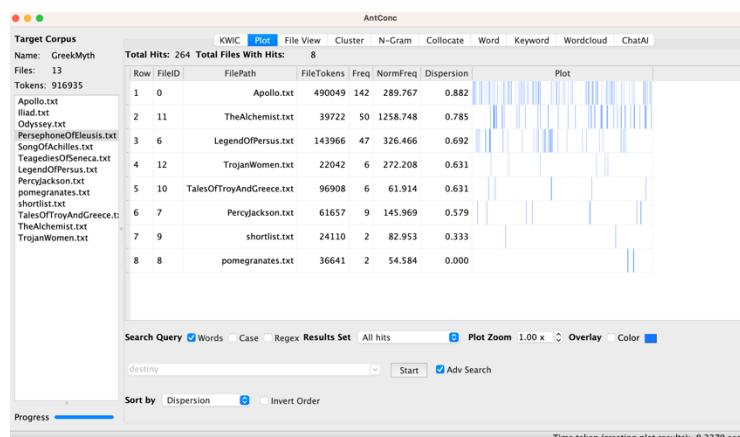


Figure 7: Plot using words such as fate, destiny, and divinity

Note that the old texts do not use these words either.

3. Social network Graph of Iliad by Homer

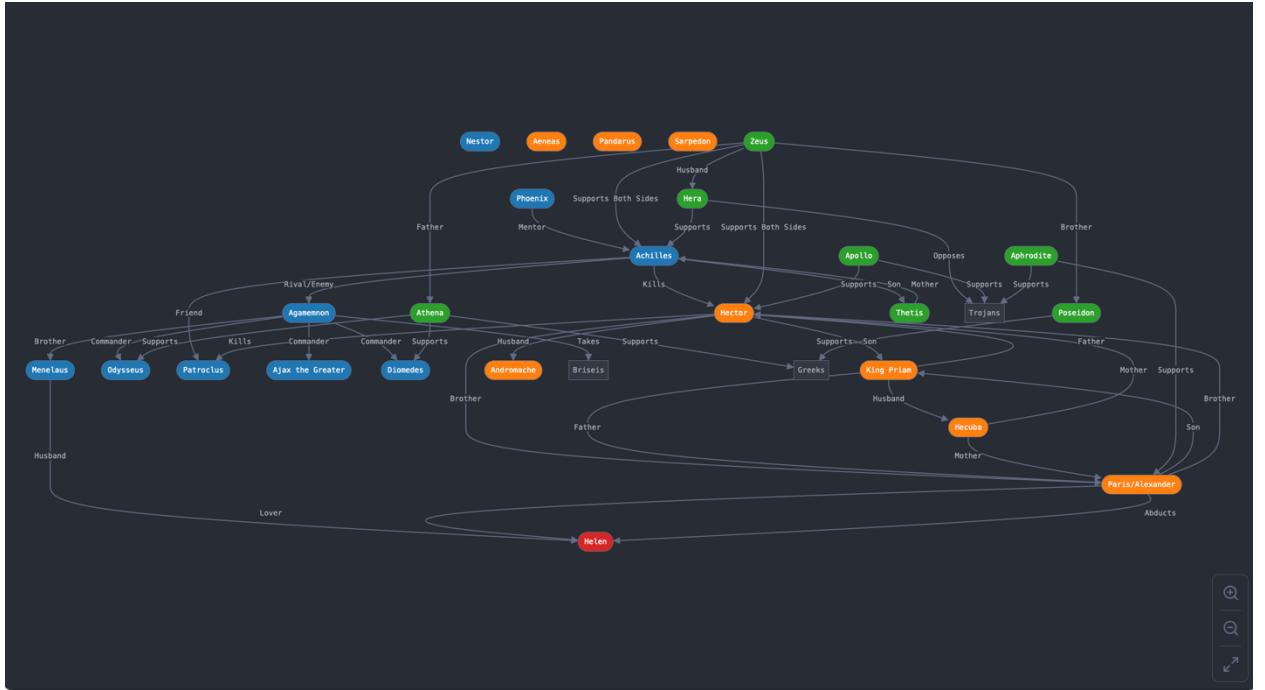


Figure 8: The social network graph of Homer's Iliad visualizes the key relationships between the major characters in the epic

This social network graph of Homer's Iliad visualizes the key relationships between the major characters in the epic. I've organized it with:

- **Blue nodes:** Greek characters (Achilles, Agamemnon, etc.)
- **Orange nodes:** Trojan characters (Hector, Paris, etc.)
- **Green nodes:** Divine characters (Zeus, Athena, etc.)
- **Red node:** Helen (who bridges both sides)

The graph shows several important relationship types:

1. **Family connections:** Such as Priam and his sons, or Agamemnon and Menelaus as brothers
2. **Political/military relationships:** The command structure of the Greek army
3. **Personal relationships:** Friendships, rivalries, mentorships
4. **Divine allegiances:** Which gods support which mortals
5. **Key conflicts:** Notable killings and confrontations

The Iliad's central conflict revolves around Achilles' wrath and withdrawal from battle after Agamemnon takes his war prize Briseis, ultimately leading to Patroclus' death at Hector's hands and Achilles' vengeful killing of Hector.

4. Social Network Analysis For Trails Of Apollo by Rick Riordan

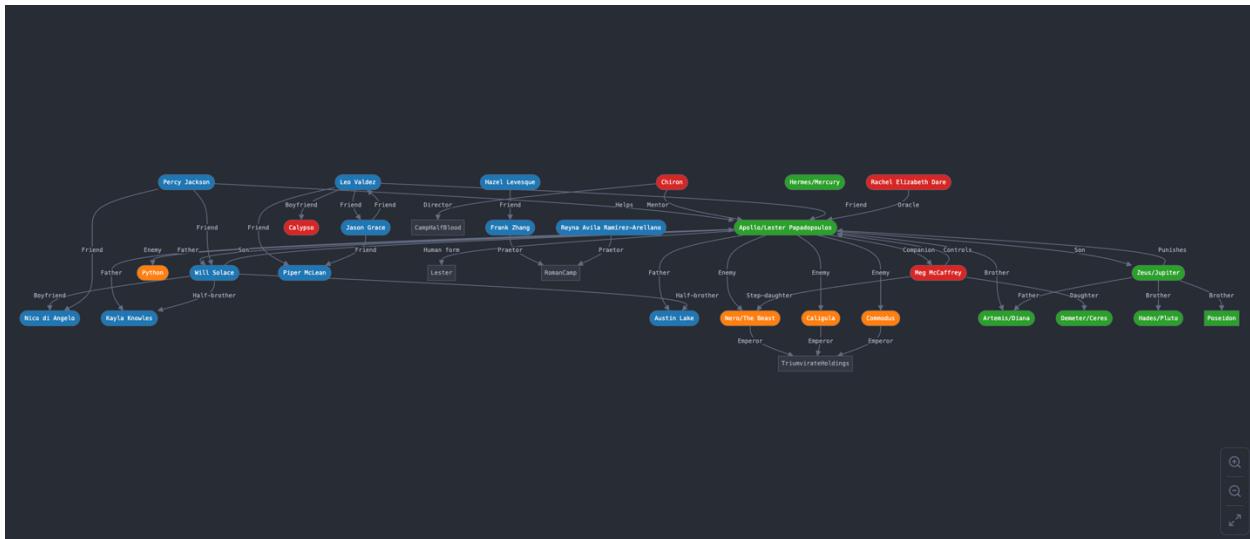


Figure 9: Social network graph of Rick Riordan's *The Trials of Apollo* using the same structure for nodes and edges as the previous one.

This social network graph depicts the key relationships in Rick Riordan's "The Trials of Apollo" series, where Apollo is cast down to Earth as a mortal teenager named Lester Papadopoulos.

The graph shows:

1. **Apollo's central relationships:** His forced partnership with Meg McCaffrey, his punishment by Zeus, his children at Camp Half-Blood, and his enemies (Python and the Triumvirate emperors)
 2. **Camp Half-Blood connections:** Important demigods like Will Solace (Apollo's son), Nico di Angelo, and appearances by Percy Jackson
 3. **Roman connections:** Characters from Camp Jupiter like Frank, Hazel, and Reyna who appear in the series
 4. **The Triumvirate:** The three Roman emperors (Nero, Caligula, and Commodus) who serve as the main human antagonists

5. **Apollo's divine family:** His relations with other gods like Artemis (his twin) and Zeus (his father)

Color coding:

- **Green:** Gods and immortals
 - **Blue:** Demigods
 - **Red:** Mortals and special beings
 - **Orange:** Villains and antagonists

Note that this graph covers the main relationships but doesn't fully explore all plot developments through the entire five-book series due to corpus limitations

5. Topic Modelling using Voyant Tool



Figure 10: Topic modelling using Voyant Tools for Trials of Apollo

As we can see God is quite prominent here.

6. Word Embedding

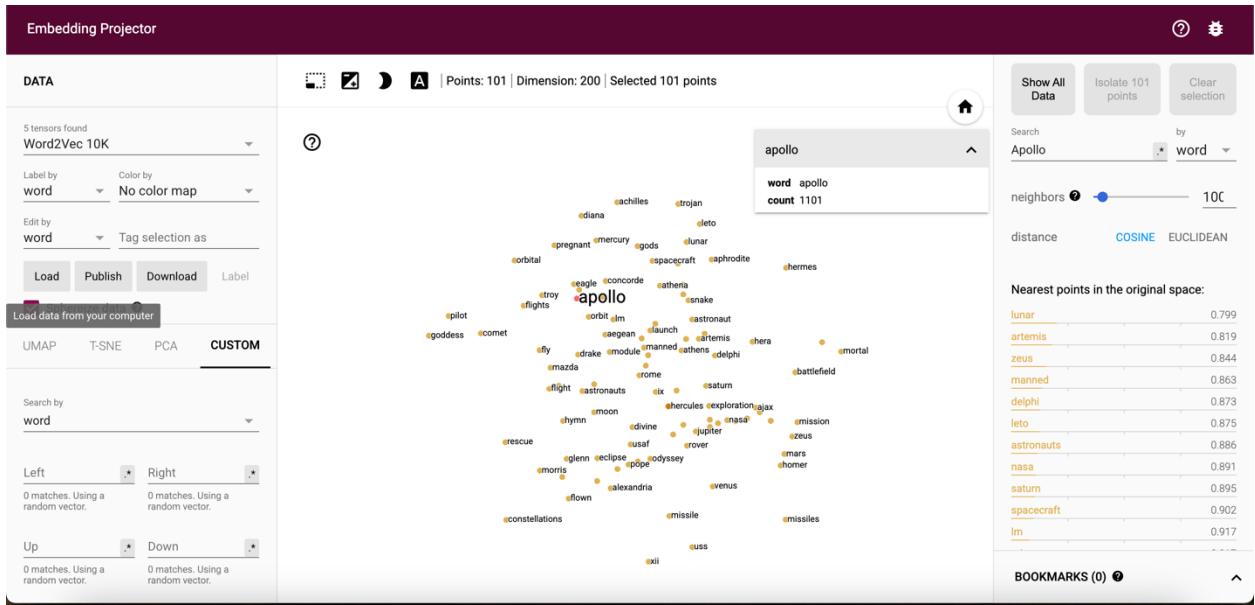


Figure 11: Google Embedding Projector of the word Apollo

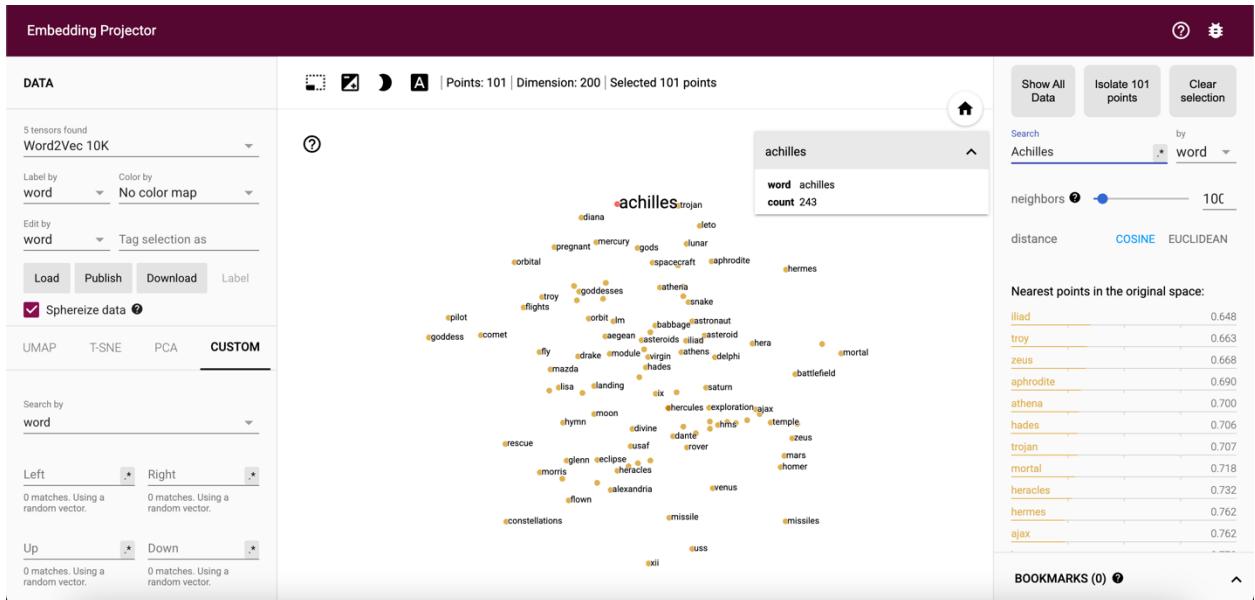


Figure 12: Google Embedding Projector of the word Achilles

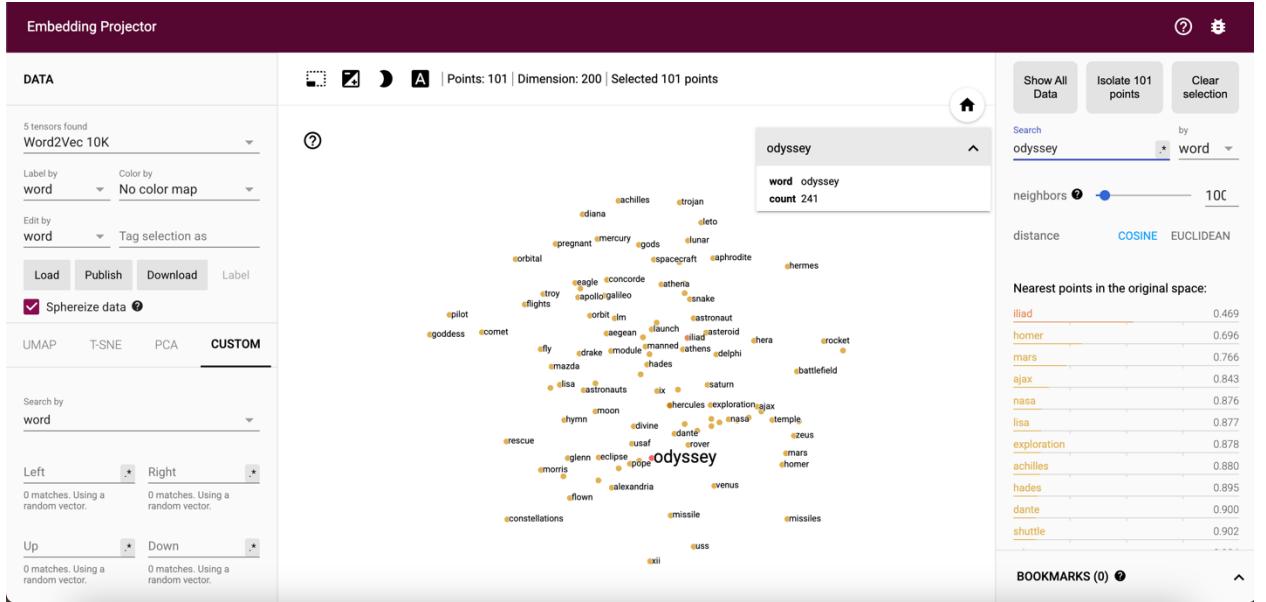


Figure 13: Google Embedding Projector of the word *Odyssey*

The word embedding shows that these words are closely related.

7. How today's AI models see Greek myth stories as:

ChatGPT Log in Sign up

can you add emojis

Absolutely! Let's add some emojis to bring the magic to life! 🌟🌙🐺

The Tale of Elara and the Moonstone 🌟🌟

Long ago, in a hidden valley beneath the towering peaks of the Elder Mountains 🏔, there lived a young woman named Elara. She was known for her unyielding curiosity and a heart as vast as the sky 🌟. Her village had always flourished in harmony with the land 🌱, but now, the earth was sick, the rivers were drying 🌴, and the winds carried a strange chill 🌬️. In their desperation, the village elders told stories of an ancient, powerful artifact—a Moonstone 🌙—that could restore the natural balance. It was said to lie hidden in the heart of the enchanted forest of the Lost Spirits 🌲, where time bent and shadows danced with strange creatures.

Driven by love for her people and the spark of adventure in her soul, Elara set out, guided by the whispers of an old legend 📖. She knew only one thing: to find the Moonstone, she had to face the trials of the forest. But the forest was not just a place of trees and mist; it was alive, filled with magic that bent the laws of nature itself ✨.

Ask anything

+ Attach Search Reason

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.

Figure 14: Response of ChatGPT for creating a Greek myth story with emojis

tell me an original short greek myth story with emojis

The Lost Star of Astraios ✨

Astraios, the Titan of stars ✨, had a daughter named Erytheia ☽, whose light shone so brightly that it guided sailors across the night sea 🌊. One night, Erytheia fell from the sky, her light fading as she drifted into the mortal realm.

Desperate to save his daughter, Astraios called upon his brother Boreas

Figure 15: Short response of ChatGPT for an original Greek myth story with emojis

Below is the copied version of a longer story ChatGPT gave me:

“The Tale of Aether, the Weaver of Worlds 🌎🧵

In the time before time, when the world was just a swirling mass of chaos, there existed a primordial being named Aether 🌌, the essence of the upper air, a force that was neither bound by the earth nor the heavens. Aether’s dreams were the threads of creation, and with each thought, new worlds were woven into existence. 🌎💭

One day, Aether grew curious about the nature of the human soul. She decided to visit the earth, disguised as a shimmering mist 🌟. She wandered through the forests 🌲 and mountains 🌎, observing the lives of mortals, feeling their joys and sorrows. But there was one thing that caught her attention—humans had the power to choose their fate, unlike the gods and titans, who were bound by the laws of the universe. This fascinated Aether, and she wanted to learn more.

She encountered a young mortal named Elian, a humble artist who painted the skies with his creations 🎨☀️. His paintings captured the beauty of the heavens—each stroke of his brush seemed to echo the stars themselves. Aether, now invisible, watched him as he worked. One day, Elian painted a scene unlike any other—a depiction of the perfect world, where peace and harmony reigned, and every creature lived in balance 🕊️💖.

Aether was moved by the purity of his vision and decided to reveal herself to him. She appeared before Elian in a swirl of light and mist . "You have created something beautiful," she said, her voice like the whisper of the wind. "But what if I told you that this world you have painted is real, waiting to be born?"

Elian, though startled, felt no fear. "If it could be, I would wish to live in such a world," he replied, his heart yearning for peace and understanding.

Aether smiled. "Then, I shall weave it into existence for you," she declared. And with a single wave of her hand, she gathered the threads of creation from the stars and wove them into a tapestry of light, shaping a new world where the laws of nature and magic blended seamlessly .

However, as the world took form, Aether realized something. The more she wove, the more she poured her essence into the fabric of reality. The creation began to shift beyond her control. It was no longer just a peaceful place—it became a world full of unpredictability, where human choices shaped the landscape, and every action had a consequence .

Elian, now a god of creation, watched in awe as the new world unfolded, knowing that while it was imperfect, it was real—alive with the passions, struggles, and triumphs of the beings who inhabited it. The world was a canvas where every soul could paint their own story, and it was that very unpredictability that made it beautiful.

But Aether, seeing that her creation had taken a life of its own, realized that she could no longer control it. She left, fading back into the ether, but not before leaving Elian with one final gift: the power to guide the world through its choices, to help others shape their fates through their actions .

And so, the world was born from Aether's dream—a place of endless possibilities, where gods, mortals, and the very fabric of creation could weave their stories together. 

From that day forward, mortals would often look to the stars, wondering if they, too, could weave their own destinies, just as Elian had once painted the sky. 

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