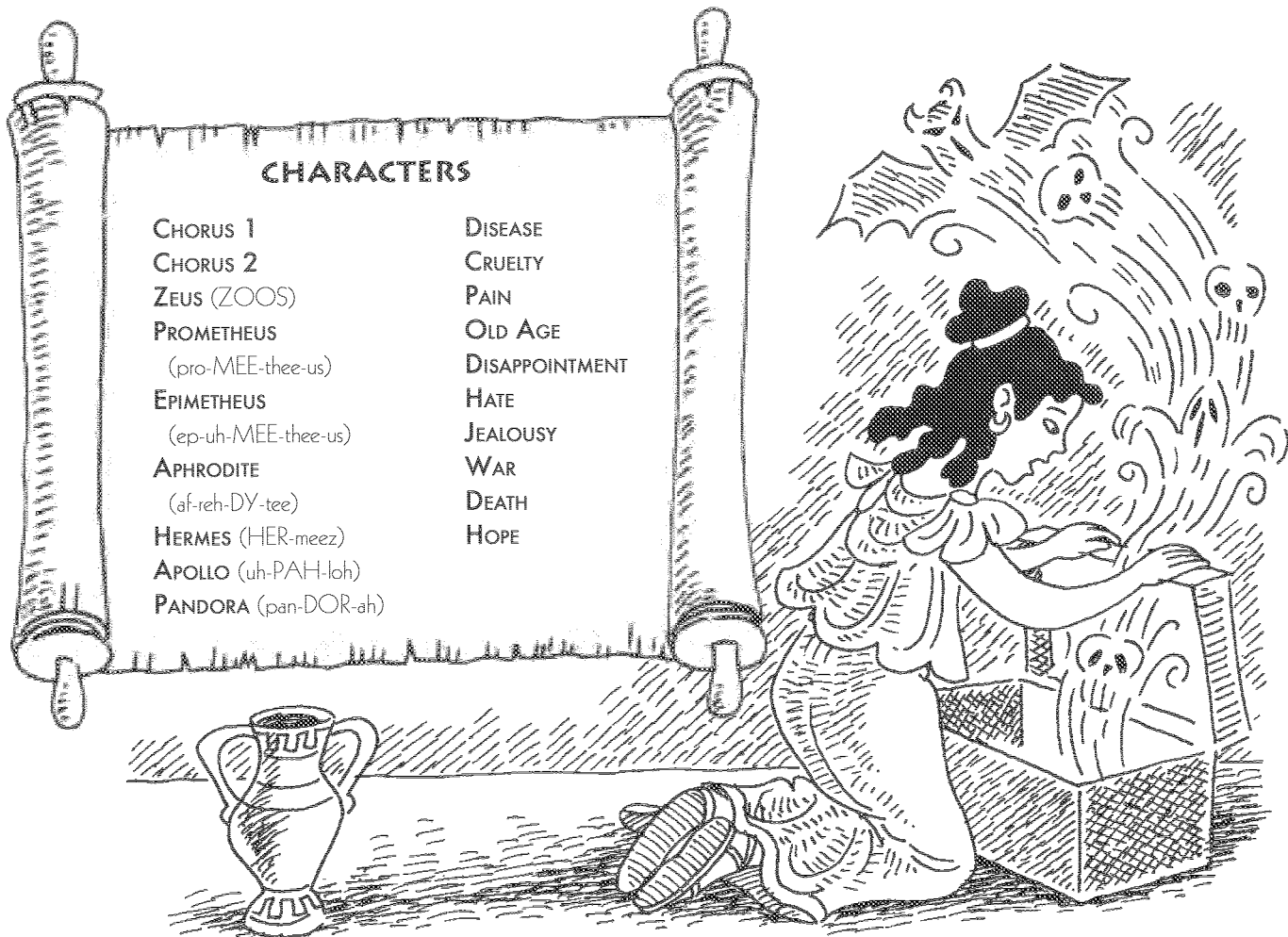


PANDORA'S BOX



CHARACTERS

CHORUS 1	DISEASE
CHORUS 2	CRUELTY
ZEUS (ZOOS)	PAIN
PROMETHEUS	OLD AGE
(pro-MEE-thee-us)	DISAPPOINTMENT
EPIMETHEUS	HATE
(ep-uh-MEE-thee-us)	JEALOUSY
APHRODITE	WAR
(af-reh-DY-tee)	DEATH
HERMES (HER-meez)	HOPE
APOLLO (uh-PAH-loh)	
PANDORA (pan-DOR-ah)	

- CHORUS 1:** Zeus, king of the gods, was angry with Prometheus for giving the gift of fire to the mortals.
- CHORUS 2:** He was also angry with the mortals for taking the gift. He would punish Prometheus and the mortals.
- CHORUS 1:** Epimetheus, Prometheus's brother, would help him punish the mortals, although Epimetheus didn't know it.
- CHORUS 2:** One day, Zeus called the brothers to him.

ZEUS: Come here, my friends.

EPIMETHEUS: Here we are.

PROMETHEUS: What is it, Zeus?

ZEUS: Well, first of all, Prometheus. You gave the gift of fire to the mortals. I am very angry about that. Such a wonderful thing should be only for gods like us, not lowly mortals.

PROMETHEUS: Sorry, Zeus.

ZEUS: You will be severely punished for what you've done. I'll deal with you later. Now Epimetheus.

EPIMETHEUS: Y-y-yes, Zeus.

ZEUS: To you, I have a gift. A wife! I made her myself with some help from the other gods.

EPIMETHEUS: Great! What is she like?

ZEUS: See for yourself. Gods, bring in Pandora!

APHRODITE: Here she is. I have given her beauty so she can please your eyes.

HERMES: I have given her a clever tongue so she can amuse you.

APOLLO: I have given her the gift of music so she can entertain you.

CHORUS 1: Zeus had given her the gift of curiosity.

CHORUS 2: But he didn't mention that to Epimetheus.

EPIMETHEUS: Wow, she's wonderful. Thank you, Zeus.

PROMETHEUS: No fair!

ZEUS: *(To Prometheus)* Never mind, you. *(To Epimetheus and Pandora)* Go and live happily together. Oh, yes, take this box as a wedding gift. *(Zeus hands Epimetheus a box.)* But you must never, ever open it.

EPIMETHEUS: We won't. It's beautiful. Thank you again.

CHORUS 1: So Zeus punished Prometheus by chaining him to a rock, while Epimetheus went home with his new wife.

CHORUS 2: Little did they know, Zeus's plan to punish the mortals was about to unfold.

PANDORA: Okay, Epi, we're in our own home now. Let's see what's in the box.

EPIMETHEUS: Oh, no, Pandora. I promised Zeus we wouldn't.

PANDORA: You are a married god now. You don't have to listen to Zeus.

EPIMETHEUS: Yes, I do, and you should too. He is a very powerful god—the most powerful. If he says don't open the box, you don't open the box, and that's that. (*He leaves.*)

PANDORA: Hmm . . . *I* didn't promise anything. But maybe Epimetheus is right. Still, what could happen? It seems like a harmless box. There are probably some fine dishes or jewels in it. I must find out! No, I shouldn't. But it's *my* wedding present too. I will!

CHORUS 1: Don't do it, Pandora!

CHORUS 2: Listen to your husband and to almighty Zeus.

PANDORA: I don't have to listen to anyone! Go away!

CHORUS 1 & 2: You'll be sorry!

CHORUS 1: Pandora took a little gold key and opened the box a crack.

PANDORA: (*Opening the box*) Just a little peek . . .

CHORUS 2: Suddenly, out popped the world's Miseries, ready to wreak havoc on the unsuspecting mortals!

DISEASE: Ah-hah! You foolish girl! You have let us out!

PANDORA: Who are you?

DISEASE: I am Disease. Now man shall get sick.

CRUELTY: I am Cruelty. Now men shall be mean to one another.

PAIN: I am Pain. Man shall now hurt.

OLD AGE: I am Old Age. Pretty self-explanatory.

DISAPPOINTMENT: I'm Disappointment. Now man shall feel let down.

HATE: I'm Hate. Man will now dislike others.

JEALOUSY: I am Jealousy. Man will now yearn for the things others have.

WAR: I'm War. Man will not live in peace.

DEATH: And I am Death. Man will not live forever!

PANDORA: What have I done?

HOPE: (*Sweetly, peeking out from the box*) You have played out Zeus's punishment to man for accepting Prometheus's gift of fire. These Miseries will go out among man and cause them much suffering.

PANDORA: Well, who are *you*? You don't seem very miserable.

HOPE: I am Hope. Keep me in the box. The Miseries will go out among the mortals. But I will remain so that humans will always have me in spite of all the evils that have gone out among them. I will help them bear the pain, but only if I remain safe inside this box.

PANDORA: Oh. Okay. Bye-bye now.

CHORUS 1: And so Pandora shut the box, leaving Hope inside to help man bear the new Miseries.

CHORUS 2: And to this day, when someone "opens Pandora's box," he or she causes trouble.

PANDORA: Some wedding gift! I really wanted a toaster!

THE END

Glossary

mortals: human beings

lowly: having a low rank or position

severely: very harshly

curiosity: eagerness to find things out

unfold: to become known

harmless: not able to cause injury or damage

almighty: possessing total power

miseries: things that cause great discomfort or unhappiness

wreak: to cause

havoc: great damage and chaos

unsuspecting: the state of not knowing something will happen

self-explanatory: not needing any further explanation

in spite of: without being hindered by, or in defiance of

