**“Prometheus” Study Guide**

**Pg. 55**

**Hesitate:** to be slow to act, speak or decide; to pause in uncertainty

**Beard: (verb)** to boldly confront or question someone

**Explicit**: clearly and directly expressed

**Ignorance:** lack of knowledge or information

1. What can we tell about Prometheus’s character traits from the very first paragraph?
2. In your own words, paraphrase what Prometheus is saying to Zeus on the bottom of page 55.

**Pg. 56**

**Destiny:** fate; the events that are going to happen in the future and cannot be changed

**Endow:**  to give someone something or to be equipped with some ability or quality

**Aptitude:** natural ability or talent for something

**Capacity:** the amount of something that can be put in a container

**Caprice**: a sudden change of mind or mood that seems to occur without reason (adj. capricious)

**Vaunting (**adj): boastful and proud

**Sustenance:** food, nourishment

**Humility (noun):** modesty, humbleness; not being too proud

1. On the top of page 56, why does Zeus insist that man is happy?
2. On page 56 and the very top of page 57, Zeus and Prometheus argue about whether or not man should have fire. What arguments does Zeus make the man should not have fire? What arguments does Prometheus make that man should have fire?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Zeus’s arguments against fire:** | **Prometheus’s arguments in favor of fire:** |
|  |  |

**Pg. 57**

**Speculations:** ideas

**Spite (noun):** ill will; the desire to harm someone

**Spite (verb):** doing something to someone just to cause them pain

1. Why are men afraid of the fire at first? How does Prometheus change their minds about it?
2. Personification is talking about something that’s not human as if it is human. How does Prometheus use personification to talk about fire? Why do you think he uses personification?

**Pg. 58**

**Agony:** extreme pain

**Torment:** suffering, torture

1. How has mankind changed when Zeus comes down from the mountain and sees them again?
2. Why doesn’t Zeus immediately punish mankind?
3. How did Zeus punish Prometheus? Did Prometheus deserve the punishment he received?
4. What is the purpose of this myth? (Is there more than one purpose?) What other myths have had similar purposes?