

“All the Gifts”

Do you like to open things? Opening an envelope you got in the mail, a present tied up with string, even a door...is exciting. Thinking about what might be inside is sometimes more fun than when you get to see what it actually is. The winter season is a time of many cultural traditions that involve families gathering together in the warmth of their homes and sharing gifts in envelopes or small packages.

The most well known Greek Myth that tells of the opening of a package is the story of Pandora. In the myth, Pandora is created a little bit by each of the Greek gods, gifted with special talents from each one. Her name explains this: PAN means ALL, DORA means GIFTS. Pandora, the girl with ALL THE GIFTS was gifted with curiosity...so when she was told to not open a package, she was too curious to wait.

A gift is beautiful on the outside and a surprise on the inside. The package was a gift from Zeus. Pandora had just been married and her husband said she better not open this gift because Zeus was angry at him so it might be a trick. But, gifts are so much fun to open. Maybe she could just shake it? Maybe she could just smell it? Or...maybe take a little peek at what's inside?

Pandora's curiosity couldn't wait. She put her hands on the gift. It was a jar (some tell the story of a box) with a lid on it. Pandora grabbed hold of the top and just tried to take a peek...and OH NO! The gift WAS a trick...out of the jar came many, many bad things...things that make you sad, that make you sick, that make you angry...it was awful. Pandora grabbed the lid and slammed the jar shut.

So many bad things all over the mythical world, and Pandora let them out. She peeked back inside the jar...and there was one thing left...it was the one thing to help survive the sad, the bad, the mad...all that wasn't good anymore. The jar had HOPE down at the very bottom. HOPE helps you survive the sad and think about what will be good, HOPE helps you not be mad and stop only seeing what is bad. HOPE is the gift for all of us. HOPE is the gift we share with each other to remember that everything will be okay.

gather these supplies to help tell the Greek Myth of Pandora:

- gift jar or box to decorate
- ribbon and label
- HOPE letters



What would a gift you gave look like?

