The Myth of Dionysus

1) Dionysus is the son of Zeus, the most powerful of all Greek gods and goddesses, and Semele, a mortal woman.

2) Zeus' wife Hera was extremely jealous and planned a trick on Semele to kill her. Hera convinced Semele to ask Zeus to reveal himself in his true form. Zeus revealed himself as a god, and Semele was burned to death after looking upon his glory.

3) Luckily, Zeus managed to save the unborn baby Dionysus by stitching him into his own thigh. Because Zeus carried him in his thigh until his birth, Dionysus became immortal.

4) Zeus still had to deal with his jealous wife because Hera was now plotting the death of Dionysus. Hera had some of the Titans rip Dionysus' body to pieces. Zeus was able to save the child, with the help of Rhea, another of the Titans.

5) Zeus then sent Dionysus away with Hermes, who took him to Mount Nysa to be raised by the half-human, half-goat creatures known as satyrs. Because of his birth story, Dionysus was always associated with rebirth.

6) When he was older, Dionysus discovered the grapevine, it is said. He taught mankind how to cultivate the vine and make wine from the grapes. Dionysus became the god of wine. He was also associated with the madness and partying that go with wine.

On the next page **illustrate** the Myth of Dionysus in six scenes.