

## Classics and creative writing

Some interesting retellings:

Hughes, M. *Country*

LeGuin, U.K. *Lavinia*

Ross, F. *Oreo*

Sherrill, S. *The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break*

Smith, A. *Girl meets Boy*

Helpful books about creative writing:

Gebbie, V. (2009) (ed.) *Short Circuit. A Guide to the Art of the Short Story*. Salt

Mills, P. (2006) *The Routledge Creative Writing Coursebook*. Routledge

### Writing exercise 1

- Think of a place and time in classical antiquity
- imagine yourself in that place and time
  - make a list of things you can see when in that place and time (big and small)
  - choose three of those things
- write for five minutes about something you can DO with one or more of those things

### Writing exercise 2

- think of a myth
- home in on a minor character in or element of it
- sketch out how that character or element could be the central focus of your retelling of the myth
  - what is your character doing? what is at stake for them?
  - what ideas / values is the character / element you've chosen conveying?

### Writing exercise 3

- Look again at what you wrote in one of the writing exercises
- think of a different time period, one later than classical antiquity
- pick one or two elements and start sketching out how you might alter and update them to fit your new time period

