Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **I can determine the meaning of words and phrases in a**

 **text about significant characters found in mythology**

Read the story below. Then see if you can determine the meaning of the underlined phrase by reading the myth that follows.

**Cupid**

 One Greek myth tells the story of Cupid, a god of love, and the mortal maiden, Psyche. Venus was jealous of the beauty of Psyche, and ordered Cupid to punish the mortal. But instead, Cupid became his own matchmaker and fell deeply in love with her. He took her as his wife, but as a mortal she was forbidden to look at him.

 Psyche was happy until her sisters convinced her to look at Cupid. Cupid punished her by departing. Their lovely castle and gardens vanished with him and Psyche found herself alone in an open field.

 As she wandered to find her love, she came upon the temple of Venus. Wishing to destroy her, the goddess of love gave Psyche a series of tasks, each harder and dangerous than the last that she must complete to regain Cupid’s love. For her last task Psyche was given a little box and told to take it to the underworld. She was told to get some of the beauty of Proserpine, the wife of Pluto, and put it in the box. During her trip she was given tips on avoiding the dangers of the realm of the dead. And also warned not to open the box. Temptation would overcome Psyche and she opened the box. But instead of finding beauty, she found deadly slumber.

 Cupid found her lifeless on the ground. He gathered the sleep from her body and put it back in the box. Cupid loved and forgave her, as did Venus. The gods, moved by Psyche's love for Cupid, made her a goddess.

**Valentine’s Day Dance**

 George stared straight ahead of him. How was he supposed to concentrate and do school work when all he could think about was finding someone to ask to the Valentine’s Day Dance? He couldn’t possibly think clearly about fractions and parts of the whole in math class when he felt this nervous. The dance was being held at his school this Saturday. That was only 1 day away. Many of George’s friends had already asked girls to meet them at the dance. Although the dance was only a friendship dance, George still had not worked up the courage to ask even a friend. George shook his head back and forth as he continued to stare at the same spot on the wall.

 “Hey, George. Snap out of it,” whispered his friend Sarah. “Are you still worried about the dance?”

 “Yeah, I guess I am. I just need to find someone to ask and get it over with.” Sarah was George’s best friend and she had already been asked to the dance by her friend Jason.

 “That doesn’t sound too pleasant,” Sarah said with a quite giggle afterwards. “Why don’t you let me ask my good friend Kristen for you?”

 George rolled his eyes. “No thanks, Sarah. I do not need anyone playing cupid for me.”

George, the character in the story “Valentine’s Day Dance,” makes a literary allusion when he tells Sarah he doesn’t need anyone playing cupid for him. Based on what you read in the myth “Cupid,” what do you think he means?

