# Orion

Orion was a brave, big and handsome hunter. He was the son of Poseidon, the god of the sea. Because his dad was the god of the sea, Orion was able to walk across every ocean to get from island to island. He took with him everywhere his two favorite hunting dogs, and always carried his shield, club and sword.

One day Orion was bragging to others about how great of a hunter he was. The goddess of hunting, Artemis, overheard his conceit. She was so upset with him she sent a scorpion to bite him in the foot and when he was bit he could no longer hunt! (actual story was he died) He was then banished to the sky for all of eternity, seen next to his two favorite hunting dogs, all chasing a hare or rabbit in the sky. Across the sky from Orion is Scorpio the scorpion. It is said that: “Wretched Orion still fears being wounded by the poisonous sting of the scorpion.” –Germanicus Caesar

# Cassiopeia

Cassiopeia is best known as the vain & boastful queen from Ethiopia. She was married to King Cepheus and her daughter was Princess Andromeda. To be vain means that you love the way you look. She was beautiful, but it isn’t right to brag about your gifts, whether it’s the way you look or what you are good at.

One day, while she combed her hair, Queen Cassiopeia was overheard by some sea nymphs bragging about how much more beautiful she was than them. The sea nymphs were hurt and told Poseidon, the god of the sea, what Cassiopeia had said. That didn’t sit well with him. He punished her by sending a sea monster to scare the people of King Cepheus & Cassiopeia’s kingdom. But a hero Perseus came and saved the island (in the real story, they sacrificed their daughter to save their kingdom and Perseus came to save her bc he loved her).

She was placed in the night sky with her husband, daughter & the hero Perseus. As the sky rotates, she is sometimes seen right side up (a W) and sometimes upside down (an M). It was thought that she was placed upside down as her punishment for being so vain, because it seems like at anytime she could fall out of her throne and fall into the ocean.

# Gemini

The twins. Do you have a very best friend? Pollux & Castor were both twin brothers & very best friends. They did everything together and never made a decision without talking to each other first. They also looked a lot alike and dressed alike. Castor however was a great horseman and fencer while Pollux was a champion boxer.

When they grew up they joined an expedition (Jason and the Argonauts) to find a special object, a golden fleece. At one point they confronted a bully who wouldn’t let them pass, so Pollux had to box the bully to help his friends. Also while on the journey, the was a terrible storm at sea, and the twins helped everyone on their ship and the whole crew were safe. The twins are still considered the patron saints of sailors. The twins were honored by the greatest god of all, Zeus, by being placed in the sky together forever! (Pollux and Helen (of Troy) are thought to be the offspring of Zeus, therefore immortal. Castor however was not his offspring therefore mortal. He suffered a lethal wound during the Trojan War. Pollux was beyond devastated by the loss of his brother so Zeus placed them together in the sky for eternity)