

Outline Development of “Pandora’s Box”

Information Sheet

Note: You may find it helpful to read the myth “Pandora’s Box” story (previous page).

Summary

1. Prometheus created man.
2. Prometheus saw that man could not survive without fire.
3. Prometheus went to Olympus and stole fire.
4. Zeus was angry at Prometheus for stealing fire (CONFLICT).
5. Zeus created Pandora and Pandora’s box.
6. Zeus sent Pandora and the box to Prometheus as a gift.
7. Prometheus was too suspicious to accept Pandora, but Epimetheus, Prometheus’s brother, married Pandora.
8. Eventually, Pandora was overcome by curiosity, and Pandora opened the box (CLIMAX).
9. All the pestilence known to man flew out and invaded the world (RESOLUTION).
10. Pandora noticed that one thing remained in the box—hope.
11. Hope is the one thing that man cannot exist without.

Summary into Scenes

Scene 1:

- Prometheus creates man.
- Prometheus sees that man cannot survive without fire.

Scene 2:

- Prometheus goes to Olympus and steals fire for man.
- Zeus is angry with Prometheus for stealing fire (CONFLICT).

Scene 3:

- Zeus creates a box and asks each of the gods and goddesses to place one thing, destructive to mankind, in the box.
- Zeus creates Pandora to keep Prometheus from being suspicious.
- Zeus gives Pandora a pet cat and the box, and tells Pandora never to open the box.

Scene 4:

- Zeus sends Pandora and the box to Prometheus as a gift.

Scene 5:

- Prometheus is too suspicious to accept Pandora.

Scene 6:

- Prometheus has a brother by the name of Epimetheus.
- Epimetheus never thinks about consequences.
- Epimetheus takes Pandora as wife.

Scene 7:

- Eventually, Pandora is overcome by curiosity about the contents of the box.
- Pandora opens the box (CLIMAX).
- All the pestilence known to man flies out and invades the world (RESOLUTION).
- Pandora notices that one thing remains in the box—hope.
- Hope is the one thing that man cannot exist without.

Scene Analysis

Scene 1

- **Setting:** The seashore
- **Characters:** Narrator, Man, Prometheus
- **Details:**
 - Prometheus creates man. (PROLOGUE)
 - Prometheus is bathing in the sea.
 - Man comes to him and begs for help.
 - Prometheus sees that man cannot survive without fire.

- Prometheus promises to help man.
- **SFX:** music waves, seagulls

Scene 2

- **Setting:** Zeus’s Palace
- **Characters:** Zeus, Hera
- **Details:**
 - Prometheus goes to Olympus and steals

- fire, for man.
- Zeus discovers that Prometheus has stolen fire from Olympus.
- Zeus is angry with Prometheus for stealing fire (CONFLICT).
- Zeus gets an idea that will punish Prometheus.

- **SFX:** none

Scene 3

- **Setting:** Zeus's palace
- **Characters:** Zeus, Craftsman, Hera
- **Details:**
 - Zeus creates a box and asks each of the gods and goddesses to place one thing, destructive to mankind, in the box.
 - Zeus creates Pandora to keep Prometheus from being suspicious.
 - Zeus gives Pandora a pet cat and the box, and tells Pandora never to open the box.
- **SFX:** clanking tools, footsteps, click & creak of box opening and closing, eerie wind

Scene 4

- **Setting:** Zeus's Palace
- **Characters:** Zeus, Pandora, Cat
- **Details:**
 - Zeus sends Pandora and the box to Prometheus as a gift.
 - Zeus tells Pandora that only Prometheus is to open the box.
 - Zeus gives Pandora a cat so that she will not be tempted to open the box.
- **SFX:** none

Scene 5

- **Setting:** Prometheus's Palace
- **Characters:** Epimetheus, Pandora, Cat, Prometheus

- **Details:**
 - Prometheus has a brother by the name of Epimetheus.
 - Prometheus is too suspicious to accept Pandora.
 - Pandora is sent to the garden so the brothers can talk.

- **SFX:** knock on door, squeak of door hinges

Scene 6

- **Setting:** Prometheus's Palace
- **Characters:** Prometheus, Epimetheus
- **Details:**
 - Epimetheus never thinks about consequences.
 - Epimetheus takes Pandora as wife.
- **SFX:** none

Scene 7

- **Setting:** Prometheus's Garden
- **Characters:** Pandora, Cat
- **Details:**
 - Eventually Pandora is overcome by curiosity about the contents of the box.
 - Pandora opens the box (CLIMAX).
 - All the pestilence known to man flies out and invades the world (RESOLUTION).
 - Pandora notices that one thing remains in the box—hope.
 - Hope is the one thing that man cannot exist without.
- **SFX:** box opening, screams of horror, eerie wind

Note: Use "Pandora's Box" script (see Production Scripts) as a model for finishing your adapted script. For detailed instructions, refer back to Adapting a Story To Radio Play Script.