Atalanta – A Greek Female Hero
Analysis

Name: ___________________________ Date: ______________ Per: ______

Yesterday you read the myth of Atalanta. Today you will analyze the greater meanings and implications of her story. For each question, you must give a COMPLETE, THOROUGH ANSWER – in other words, you need to fill all the space given to you for each question. Each question requires a CD quote from the text to prove your response. This assignment is a WRITING GRADE!!! You may work with a partner but each one of you must write your own responses.

1. How does being a girl affect Atalanta’s life?

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2. As to the men who fall in love with her, why do they love her?

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3. The death of Meleager is tragic simply because death of someone young and noble is tragic. But why is his death particularly tragic for Atalanta? Go deeper than just saying that she loved him. You need more here. Think about her life and how/why Meleager loved her and what he expected from her, and how others viewed her position/power.

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4. Why is it so important that she marry?

5. What kind of man is Hippomenes', especially considering his actions during the race?

6. Is Hippomenes worthy enough to be Atalanta’s husband? Why/why not?

The following question is a true extended response. Remember to get full credit, you MUST use all the space provided using NORMAL size handwriting. Large, fat handwriting will be penalized!!!!!

7. Atalanta is one of the very few female heroes in Greek and Roman mythology. She is admired and praised by both women and men. Yet, she comes from a society that usually praised men far more than women – a society that often found women “worthless” as mere homemakers rather than “rulers” or “warriors” which were attributes far more respected. And although Atalanta is revered by men and women, pay close attention to how her story ends. Based upon what you know of the female gods and the whole story of Atalanta, what is being said about roles and expectations of human women?