Examples of Greek Odes Written by Fifth Grade Students

I asked the 8th grade to select the winning Ode from the following anonymous (to the 8th graders) Odes. The one selected was read aloud by the 5th grade student-author at the Pentathlon Opening Ceremonies.

#1 Ode to Artemis

Hail to Artemis, Goddess of the hunt,
Patron of the moon and stars.
I see your silver chariot shining from afar,
Pulled by golden-antlered deer,
Praying you might be coming here.

For I'm to face the task of the games
I hope I may win in your name.
So this is all I ask of you,
That my discus and javelin will fly high and true,
And I may run as graceful as your deer,
Be full of courage and have no fear.

#2 Ode to Artemis

Hail to the huntress,
Whose silver arrows fly,
To strike great beasts of stature
Like an eagle from the sky.

The one whose quiet feet
Tread on the wooded land,
Who holds the bow of power
Within her dexterous hand.

O' huntress of the woodland,
I pray to me you lend,
Your beauty, grace and swiftness
So that I might defend
Your glorious name
In the five-fold game.

#3 Ode to Apollo

Apollo, whose bright, shining rays give courage to men,
Who slew the black dragon of Delphi with arrows of light,
Whose lyre’s sweet music rings softly o’er wood, hill and glen,
Grant me the power and speed of your gold sunbeams bright,
And their grace as they sparkle on the sea like white flames,
When the sun rises in the East, blazing and new,
As I face the test of the Games,
May I gain the laurel wreath, sacred to you.

#4 Ode to Poseidon

Hail to thee, O’ Poseidon,
Controller of the seas,
Driver of the golden chariot,
Drawn by horses foamy white.

Grant to me this simple boon,
So that when I do compete,
I will be a good athlete.

Give to me the strength of arm,
To hurl a javelin good and hard,
Give to me the swiftness of
Foam white horses, who skim above
The water, which is their home.
#5  Ode to Artemis

Hail to Artemis,
Goddess of the moon and hunt,
Twin sister of Apollo, daughter of Zeus.
Your beauty and swiftness inspire us all.

I ask you to grant to me the courage to do my best
And your grace to accept whatever comes my way in the Games.
Bless me with the swiftness of your silver arrow,
The beauty of your running and the strength of your spirit.
With these I will strive to win the Games in your name.

#6  Ode to Poseidon

Hail to thee O' Poseidon
Ruler of the sea,
On your snow white horses
In which all the creatures bow to thee.
I call on the three points of your trident:

The speed of your horses,
The strength of the sea,
The force of your raging,
So that my opponents will be worried.

Let me jump as remote as the dolphins in the water,
Give me strength to throw the javelin like your trident
And the equilibrium of your ocean for wrestling.
O' Poseidon,
Give my legs speed as rapid as your horses.