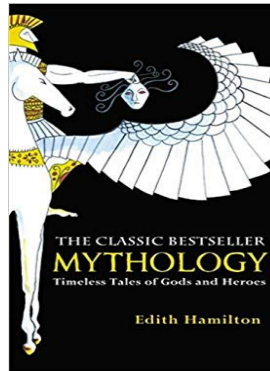


8th Grade Honors English I
Summer Reading Assignment
Edith Hamilton's Mythology
ISBN: 0446574759



Rationale:

Classic Greek and Roman Mythology are alluded to in both ancient and modern literature. A strong knowledge of mythology is key to understanding and analyzing mythological allusions in literature, and their significance to underlining symbols or themes in a writer's work.

Goal:

To prepare students for the rigors of English courses in High School, and to familiarize students with mythological allusions used in both verbal and written language.

Objectives:

- To analyze and critique literary selections
- To develop critical thinking skills
- To promote reading literature

Summer Assignment:

Reading: Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* is available in all public libraries, although we suggest you purchase a copy: [Click here for the amazon link](#)

Although you are only required to read the sections listed, **read as many myths as you can during the summer**. You might find it helpful to compose annotated notes of what you read for quick reference and to enhance your comprehension once you return to school.

Read, Annotate, and Take Notes on the following myths:

Part One: The Gods, The Two Great Gods of Earth, How the World and Mankind Were Created, The Earliest Heroes, Flower-Myths

Part Two: Cupid and Psyche, Eight Brief Tales of Lovers, The Quest of the Golden Fleece, Four Great Adventures

Part Three: Perseus, Theseus, Hercules, Atalanta

Part Four: The Trojan War, The Fall of Troy, The Adventures of Aeneas

Part Five: The House of Atreus, The Royal House of Thebes (You do not need to read
The Royal House of Athens)

These units will be the basis of our academic discussions upon your return to school - a thorough understanding of the reading is to be expected.

PICK ONE OUT OF THE THREE LISTED:

Artistic Project:

This product must be an “art” inspired object such as a shadow box, movie poster, model of the setting, scrapbook of one of the characters, a sculpture, a painting, or a drawing. Be imaginative and creative as possible in order for the product to be unique and show evidence of understanding and original thinking. The focus needs to be on one myth or character from mythology. The product needs to be small and portable, and no larger than 8” x 11”. A one full, typed page, double spaced explanation MUST accompany your “art” object and should explain how it relates to the myth or character.

Dramatic Project:

This product will involve a performance, and you may choose from three forms. In your performance, you must demonstrate knowledge of the selection by including plot events, key characters, or thematic references. A typed script MUST accompany your performance. Choose from one of the forms below:

- Deliver an original monologue as a god, goddess, hero, or heroine from mythology. This MUST be performed live and should include some appropriate costuming and props.
- Be a newscaster and use events and characters from mythology as elements in the featured news story. This MUST be performed live and should include appropriate costuming and props.
- Create a talk show in which you, the host/hostess, interview gods, goddesses, heroes, heroines from mythology. This must be videotaped and should include appropriate costuming and props. You can ask friends to be in your movie but the bulk of the speaking should be done by you.

Written Project

This product involves creative writing. Choose from the options below:

- Write a full paged, double spaced, typed letter to Edith Hamilton about her book
- Write a series of letters between the Greek characters in the book. A minimum of four, thoughtful letters must be written
- Create a journal/diary as one of the characters from the book. This must include a minimum of ten dated entries.

In addition, include an illustration(s) with your original creative writing project. This may be an original drawing, clip art, computer generated illustration, pictures cut of on a magazine, or a collage. You should be prepared for additional assignments and tests related to Hamilton's Mythology during the first month of school , so take handwritten notes as you read (in a composition book) and bring it to school of the first day back.

All of your written components need to be typed and in MLA format. Access <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> if you need instructions on MLA format. Be very careful not to plagiarize any information in your work. **Your handwritten notes on the stories listed and others that you read on your own from Mythology, and the project of your choice are due on the first day of school.**

I look forward to an exciting and productive year of reading and writing many pieces of world literature together.

Have a wonderful summer,

Michael Morelli