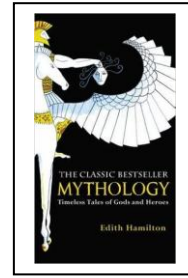

Brother Rich
Classical Literature (H)
Summer 2018



Summer **Reading Guide** for Mythology, by Edith Hamilton

Gentlemen, you are welcome to read the entire book this summer, from cover to cover. The information in here will serve you not only in this course but also for the rest of your life. Much of the literature, theater, cinema, art, architecture, music, psychology, and philosophy of Western Civilization is built on, refers to, or alludes to classical Greek and Roman culture; and Greek and Roman mythology permeates those two cultures.

However, you all also have summer reading for your English H/AP course and perhaps for your History/Government class - and for other electives like Philosophy. So, let me simplify this for you a bit.

I suggest you read the **Introduction** and **Parts One, Two, Three, and Six** of Mythology this summer. Read **Parts Four** and **Five** before our Second Quarter begins; that's when we will read the Iliad. Then finish with **Part Seven** in the fourth quarter, when we will look at Norse Mythology and the epic literature of Scandinavia, England, Italy, Spain and France - as well as modern epic literature like The Lord of the Rings, A Song of and Fire, and Star Wars.

No, you will **not** have a test on your summer reading the first week of school. That should give you a sigh of relief...but that should **not** tempt you to skip the book. Remember: this is an Honors class. It is an *honor* for you to be in this class, and you are expected to act *honorably* in all aspects of this class. And this is an elective; you chose - or *elected* - this class, so remember that you chose to read the books and discuss and write about them - cheerfully and knowledgeably. Copying, plagiarizing, or using Spark Notes or other websites will be considered a violation of Saint Paul's Honor Code.

I **do** expect you to be familiar with the Titans, Olympians, and Gods of the Earth, as well as the major heroes - and to recognize them when they come up in literature and in class discussions, and to understand the references or allusions.

- Know the Greek and Roman names of the gods in Part One; know their domains and attributes, sacred animals, favorite cities, special powers, and reasons for which mortals would invoke them
- Be able to recall the gist of each myth of the heroes in Parts Two and Three.
- When we read the Iliad during Second Quarter, you should recognize names like Diomedes and Ajax, Nestor and Calchas, Hector and Aeneas, Briseis and Cassandra...besides the obvious names of Agamemnon and Menelaus, Achilles and Patroclus, Priam and Hecuba, Paris and Helen.

When you study psychology in college and recall the myth of Cupid and Psyche or when you walk into the Louvre, you will be greeted by *the* statue of Athena Nike, and you will remember this book and this class. I know students often ask themselves or their teachers, "When will I ever use this?" Well, my answer to you is "the rest of your life."

Please, feel free to email me at any time. We will set up a class "Remind," perhaps this summer. In July, I may contact you with an offer of a mythological movie along with *dolmas* and *baklava*.

Thank you for electing this course!
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