

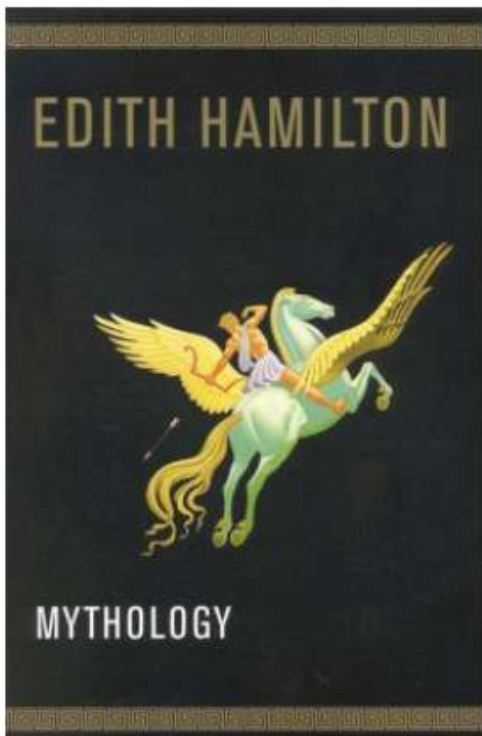
Union Grove High School

Honors 9th Grade Literature and Composition

2019-2020 Summer Reading Assignment

Mythology is a compilation of imaginative stories resulting from man's attempt to understand the phenomena of nature and to explain cultural customs and rituals. Mythology was a way to explain our world when science had yet to discern an understanding. Much of the literature you will read in school will contain allusions to Greek, Roman, or Norse mythology. For example, a character in a novel may be described as narcissistic, as an Adonis, or as undertaking Herculean tasks. All of these are references to Greek mythology. Recognizing the myth leads

to greater understanding of the literature.



Students are required to obtain a copy of **Edith Hamilton's** *Mythology* for the summer reading assignment. Students are **not** required to read the text from cover to cover. Instead, students will read the Introduction and Part I, Chapters 1-2 ("The Gods," and "The Two Great Gods of the Earth"), and then use the remainder of the book as a reference guide (by referring to the index) to locate the information needed throughout the year.

Please demonstrate the qualities of an honors level student by showing pride and interest in the quality of the work produced and submitted to your teacher. Carefully read and follow all directions.

On the **first day of school**, all Honors 9th Grade Literature and Composition students will submit the summer reading assignment.

This work must be handwritten, in neat and legible writing. Illustrations (if you choose to include them can be colored—or not). Spending time thinking about these connections is the most important part of the assignment.

Summer Reading Assignment Requirements

PART 1: Twelve Principle Gods

Identify the **twelve principle gods** of Greek Mythology. Include the **characteristics** and **realm** of each as well as any **symbols or animals** associated with each. Create and complete a chart like the one included here as a visual representation of this information.

PART 2: Lesser Gods of Olympus, Gods of Water, Gods of the Underworld

For the lesser gods of Olympus, gods of water, and gods of the underworld, identify two facts about each.

PART 3: The Two Great Gods of Earth

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, Chapter Two addresses the two great gods of earth (Dionysus and Demeter). Locate key facts to explain why these two gods were considered special to the Greeks. Provide specific details about their abilities and struggles.

PART 4: Myths

Identify the general plot details for **each** of the following myths. This information may be organized in any format that works well for access and use (chart, paragraphs, bullets, etc.).

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| A. Cupid and Psyche | E. Daedalus and Icarus (138-140) |
| B. Pyramus and Thisbe (101-103) | F. House of Atreus (236-263) |
| C. Pygmalion and Galatea (108-111) | G. Oedipus and House of Thebes (256-261) |
| D. Echo and Narcissus (87-88) | H. Midas (278-279) |

PART 5: Mythology in the World Around Us

Part of the reason we study mythology is that it is a basis for allusions in prose and poetry. Once you have reviewed these characters, you will see them everywhere—and understand how their appearance often brings to mind much of what Hamilton provides us in her book.

Looking around you, even in such common places as the grocery store, will reveal the characters of mythology. Consider names and images. Throughout the summer find these items and take a selfie with each. Have fun! You will upload your favorite five to the Google form at <https://bit.ly/2E0CNse>. An example can be previewed on the electronic form.

Before submitting it, you must name the image using this convention: XXXXXXXX-MythName-dateTaken.

Expand this template as needed, or create your own, using the column format below. (If part of the description uses a word you do not know—LOOK IT UP). You can also use the book’s index to see more details about the gods from other stories.

Twelve Olympians

Greek Name	Characteristics	Realm of Power	Symbol or Animal
(Roman Name)			

Lesser Gods

Greek Name	Origins, Characteristics and/or Descriptions
(Roman Name)	

Dionysus and Demeter

Name	Abilities and Struggles	Why Important?
(Roman Name)		

Myths

Myth	General Plot Details

Assessment

During the second week of school, all ninth grade honors students will be assessed on their knowledge of Greek mythology. Students **may use all the information contained in the summer reading assignment** as notes **while** taking the assessment. The assessment will be based **solely** on the information contained in the summer reading assignment. The summer reading **assessment** will count as the first major assessment score in this course.

Summer Contact Details

- Please do not hesitate to contact me at laura.beckham@henry.k12.ga.us should you have questions or require assistance with the summer reading assignment.
- I will check email and respond to student questions regarding the summer reading assignment **every THURSDAY from May 30 to July 18.**

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEK OF SUMMER TO BEGIN THIS ASSIGNMENT. AFTER JULY 18, 2019, SUMMER OFFICE HOURS WILL END, AND I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO REPLY TO STUDENT EMAILS REGARDING SUMMER READING.

Example work:

Greek Name	Characteristics	Realm of Power	Symbol or Animal
<p>ZEUS (Roman Name) Jupiter</p>	<p>"the mightiest of all" companion-justice parents: Rhea & Chronus ♥ Lothario</p>	<p>LORD OF THE SKY cloud Gatherer rain god because water needed the heavens</p>	<p>aegis (shield) "awful to behold" (26) oak eagle</p>
Lesser Gods			
Greek Name	Origins, Characteristics and/or Descriptions		
<p>EROS (Roman Name) Cupid</p>	<p>lives in the hearts of men. "winged youth" (38). (sometimes) son of Venus</p>		
			<p>"Love is blind" blind-fold, red</p>