

# HONORS ENGLISH I SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

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Facebook Discussion Page: [www.tinyurl.com/OHSEnglishSummer](http://www.tinyurl.com/OHSEnglishSummer)

(please join if you have questions/comments during the summer)

**Please read both pages carefully before you get started.**

## ***Bulfinch's Mythology* by Thomas Bulfinch**

The study of mythology is necessary for becoming a well-rounded student. Not only are the stories timeless, but allusions to them permeate our literary history and modern culture. *Bulfinch's Mythology* is one of the consummate sources on the subject. The text is **free** online at <http://www.bartleby.com/bulfinch/> and can be downloaded for free on Kindle and for \$.99 on Nook. Hard copies can also be obtained in new or used forms online or at the library. One great place for used books is [www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com). In addition, you may need a dictionary with you as you read.

### **Summer Reading Directions and Assignment**

These are *honors* classes. Successful honors students have two defining characteristics – they are smart and they are willing to work hard. You are expected to *honor* your commitment to read this book and do the assignment.

**Your assignment is this:**

1. **Visit the interactive website <http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/>, and take notes on each of the ten sections, paying particular attention to Greek culture. This site has interactive stories, explorations, and challenges, so have fun with it.** You will turn in your notes.
2. **Familiarize yourself with the introduction and the stories listed in bold on the study guide.** It's important that you understand these stories, as they are the most common in literature. One technique is to answer the questions on the study guide as you read. While the study guide itself is optional, it is strongly recommended that you do it. However, if you prefer another study technique – drawing, creating graphic organizers, etc. – feel free to use that technique. You will be allowed to use any *original* materials on the test in English *if your work is not plagiarized and is completely your own work*. A note: As the study guide is single-spaced, we recommend either downloading and typing your responses directly on the guide or copying the questions – this way you will know what the information refers to as you use it on the test. If all you have is a list of answers, it won't make sense come test time.
3. **Write the essay** listed on the next page. Follow the guidelines carefully.

**The following are due the first Friday of school:**

1. The notes on Greek culture
2. The study guide (optional) or other study materials
3. The rough draft (with your editor's comments)
4. The final copy of the essay

In addition, you will take a comprehensive test on the material from this book.

### ***BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY STUDY GUIDE***

The study guide is designed to help you focus as you read through the material this summer. **Answering these questions is *not* a required assignment; however, there will be a comprehensive test.** If there is another technique that you would like to use as you read, feel free to do so. You may want to create graphic organizers, a series of timelines, charts, maps, illustrations, or a combination of any or all of these methods. Each student approaches material in a unique way, so use whichever technique will be the most useful to you in learning the material. **You will turn in any materials you create as study material (in addition to your essay) by the first Friday of school. You will be allowed to use this on the test as long as it is your original work. (No copy/pasting or shared work.)**

As this is an honors program, keep in mind that you will be expected to know the material (**which involves studying and reviewing it rather than just reading through it once**). Know places *and* people (who each mythological character is, why s/he is recognized, what s/he represents, how s/he is related to other mythological characters, etc.). In-depth understanding, rather than rote memorization, is the key here.

To that end, you should not put off the assignment until the last part of the summer. Instead, develop the habit of reading regularly, daily if possible, for 30-45 minutes. This class and this assignment are the first steps in preparing you for the rigors of the Honors and AP classes and tests at Ola High School. I promise, as with all of the reading we will do this year, it will not be possible to do well without actually reading and understanding the books.

## Essay Directions

### Due the first Friday of school

#### PROMPT

What we call mythology was a religion and a way of life for the ancient Greeks. Your assignment is to answer the following question in a well-crafted essay of two to three typed pages (double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font):

**Choose your favorite myth and write an essay that analyzes how it specifically reflects ancient Greek culture and has diffused into modern culture. Within the essay (the introduction would be a logical place), be sure to craft an original definition of culture by answering these two questions:** By what examples of culture can you identify a group? How can culture affect the types of jobs, government, and organization of a state?

No matter which myth you choose, you must **support your essay with details from the reading and the culture web site**. It should be very clear that you have read and understand. Please use a MLA-formatted header.

#### PRE-WRITING

As you read *Bulfinch's Mythology* and explore the website, pay particular attention to the parts which may help you write your essay. As you're reading, you will probably think, "Oh, this could have something to do with the essay." When you come across examples or ideas like that, jot them down. This will make the writing of the paper easier.

#### THE PAPER

You should begin with an **introductory paragraph** giving your reader the topic of your paper. Begin with a hook and work your way to **your claim (the thesis statement)**. For example: "Hera's influence on Greek culture can be seen in..."). Avoid phrases like "I believe" or "I think." [Click here](#) for information on how to craft a great introduction.

The **body** of your composition should contain information, ideas, and examples that **support your claim/thesis statement**. You may want to summarize a section of the book or briefly retell an event, but then you must return to answering the question at hand. You should also use direct quotes to support your ideas. When you do this, use quotation marks around the words *precisely* as they appear in the text. [Please cite details using MLA format.](#)

**Conclude** with a paragraph in which you restate your thesis (in different, interesting words) and summarize your conclusions. Avoid phrases like "In conclusion," or "To sum up." [Click here](#) for tips on writing a successful conclusion.

Be sure you have crafted an original definition of culture as stated in the prompt.

#### CRITIQUE

When you finish the rough draft of your paper, ask a friend or family member to read it. Ask your reader to make notes on the essay about what s/he liked best about your work, which parts were difficult to understand, and ways in which your work could be improved. Reread your paper considering your critic's comments, and make the corrections you think are necessary. **Please turn in your rough draft with reader's comments along with your final.**

#### PROOFREADING

Do a final proofreading of your paper double-checking your grammar, spelling, organization, and the clarity of your ideas.

**Remember that this is your teacher's first impression of your ability and work effort – do your best!**

#### PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism will result in a zero. In its most simple form, plagiarism is the act of claiming someone else's work or ideas as your own. If you do research and get ideas or words from somewhere else, *you must give credit*. If you are unfamiliar with MLA citations, you can learn how to give credit at <http://owl.english.perdue.edu>.