

Overview & Rationale

Incoming English Honors 2 students are required to read **Edith Hamilton's *Mythology***. This book is readily available at libraries, bookstores, and [online](#). Hamilton's *Mythology* has gone through several different printings over the years, but the text is the same in all editions; thus, any copy of the book is acceptable.

The focus of Honors English 2 is world literature, and thus it is essential that students have an in-depth knowledge of the myths that predate Western writing. These stories form the basis for some of the earliest literature in the Western world and continue to shape and influence contemporary literature as well.

This assignment must be your own work. Although graded, we also use your responses as a pre-assessment, for it gives an idea of your entering skillset. Plagiarism, including the use of ChatGPT and other AI programs that create content, will not be accepted.

If you have any questions about the summer reading assignments, please email either Mrs. Cooper (hcooper@hbuhsd.edu) or Mr. Rasmussen (csrasmussen@hbuhsd.edu). This document will also be available via a link on the Marina High School home page (www.marinavikings.org).

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* Summer Reading & Writing Assignment

- **Read the Introduction and Chapters 1-12.**
- Address the following questions / topics below with insights and details.
- **Due date / submission details:** Type your responses in one Google Doc and have the assignment saved in your Google Drive ready for submission on the 2nd day of school. Title the Google Doc "First + Last Name EH2 Summer Assignment." You will upload the assignment to Canvas during class time on the 2nd day of school.
- Organize your entries according to the assignment headings. Number and title each response as indicated below.
- Use Times New Roman, 12 point font. Single or 1.5 space is appropriate.
- There will be a test on these chapters during our Mythology Unit 1st Quarter.

1. Introduction to Classical Mythology

Read the first section and "The Mythology of the Greeks." Choose 2 important takeaways from this introduction and explain why the takeaways stood out to you and/or how they are important. Each explanation should be 4-8 sentences. Skip "The Greek and Roman Writers of Mythology."

2. Chapter One: The Gods

Create a glossary of the major gods mentioned in this chapter. Give each name and a two sentence definition/identification. List them in the order that's given below. Points will be deducted if you don't write complete sentences.

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Cronus (Saturn) | 7. Phoebus Apollo | 14. Eros (Cupid) |
| 2. Zeus (Jupiter) | 8. Artemis (Diana) | 15. Iris |
| 3. Hera (Juno) | 9. Aphrodite (Venus) | 16. the Muses |
| 4. Poseidon (Neptune) | 10. Hermes (Mercury) | 17. Pan |
| 5. Hades (Pluto) | 11. Ares (Mars) | 18. Demeter (Ceres) |
| 6. Pallas Athena (Minerva) | 12. Hephaestus (Vulcan) | 19. Dionysus (Bacchus) |
| | 13. Hestia (Vesta) | |

3. Chapter Two: The Two Great Gods of Earth

Write one thorough and thoughtful paragraph (about one page in length) discussing the similarities and differences between Demeter and Dionysus. Include their personalities and actions. Explain with evidence from the text.

4. Chapter Three: How the World and Mankind Were Created

List and number eight key events of this creation story. For each numbered event, write 2-3 complete sentences with details. Be sure they are in chronological order. Be sure your bullet points / plot events cover main ideas from throughout the chapter.

5. Chapter Four: The Earliest Heroes

Write a brief synopsis of each myth and include Zeus' role or how he is referenced ("Prometheus and Io," "Europa," "The Cyclops Polyphemus," and "Flower-Myths: Narcissus, Hyacinth, Adonis"). Then, write a thorough paragraph analyzing your overall opinion of Zeus based on his actions in these myths. Explain with some evidence from the text, but be sure to focus on *your* opinions and critical thinking.

6. Chapters Five and Six: Cupid and Psyche / Eight Brief Tales of Lovers

Read only the following stories from these chapters: "Cupid and Psyche," "Pyramus and Thisbe," "Orpheus and Eurydice," "Ceyx and Alcyone," "Pygmalion and Galatea," "Baucis and Philemon," and "Daphne." Then, practice succinct, yet detailed writing by providing a 4-5 sentence only synopsis of each story that conveys the entirety of the story, while also including the characters and the story's purpose.

7. Chapter Seven: The Quest of the Golden Fleece

Write a thorough paragraph analyzing the admirable qualities and flawed traits that Jason demonstrates in his story. Make sure to state the traits and justify your opinions using multiple sentences. Include specific examples from the text.

8. Chapter Eight: Four Great Adventures

Analyze one moral or lesson for each myth: "Phaëthon," "Pegasus and Bellerophon," and "Daedalus." Be sure to explain your choices with specific examples from the text - Don't just list them. Avoid clichés, and do not repeat lessons/morals (identify a different lesson for each myth).

9. Chapters Nine – Twelve: Perseus, Theseus, Hercules, Atalanta (of the boar hunt)

Which of these heroes is the most heroic and why? Which one is the least heroic and why? Be sure to include specific examples from the stories. Write one paragraph to respond to each question (2 paragraphs total). Also, at the end of each paragraph, include at least one statement that addresses the opposition (address why someone may disagree with you and think the opposite for *that* hero), and then refute his/her counter argument.

NOTE: "Explain with evidence from the text" means to include/incorporate direct quotations &/or paraphrase of the plot. Cite your references from the text. Then, analyze each example and explain how it proves the topic/your ideas.