

## 2016 - ENGLISH I HONORS – SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Welcome to Osceola Fundamental High School! During our shortened summer, you will begin preparing for high school English by reading *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton. This classic work will introduce you to the foundational stories that the western canon is based on. Please have the assignment completed to turn in for grading the first Friday of school, August 12, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact: Mrs. Powers at [powersch@pcsb.org](mailto:powersch@pcsb.org)

- I. **Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*** - All English I Honors students are required to read selections from Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*. This is an independent assignment; therefore, each student must complete the assignment on his/her own. Resist the Siren's Song of the Internet to complete your answers because plagiarism and cheating are never acceptable options.
- II. **Why read Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*?**  
Greek mythology is one of the most alluded to topics in all of literature. In order to have a better understanding of the literature read in all levels of high school, students need to have an awareness of Greek stories and characters.
- III. **Which Parts to Read**
  - A. Part 1: *The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes*
    - i. The Gods
      1. The Titans and the Twelve Great Olympians
      2. The Gods of the Waters
      3. The Underworld
    - ii. The Earliest Heroes
      1. Prometheus and Io
      2. The Cyclops Polyphemus
      3. Flower-Myths (all)
  - B. Part 2: *Stories of Love and Adventure*
    - i. Cupid and Psyche
    - ii. Eight Brief Tales of Lovers
      1. Pyramus and Thisbe
      2. Orpheus and Eurydice
      3. Pygmalion and Galatea
    - iii. The Quest of the Golden Fleece
    - iv. Four Great Adventures
      1. Pegasus and Bellerophon
      2. Daedalus
  - C. Part Three: *Great Heroes before the Trojan War*
    - i. Perseus
    - ii. Theseus
    - iii. Hercules

**IV. Your Writing Assignment. Choose ONE of the following prompts to answer. Your paper will include direct quotes from the text, specific examples to support your claims, and justification for your choice. The final paper will be in basic MLA format: 12 point, Times New Roman font, double spaced. Your response must be a minimum of two pages. 100 points.**

1. The Greeks created a variety of heroes with distinct qualities and traits. Choose a modern hero from film or literature or comic books or video games to compare and contrast to a Greek hero from Hamilton's *Mythology*. You may choose an earliest hero, an adventurer, or one from before the Trojan War for your Greek hero to compare to your modern hero. (You may want to revisit the film or book *The Hunger Games* or *Maze Runner* for examples of modern heroes.)
2. You have read several stories of heroes. All of them were described as: "heroes of renown" (161), "[t]he great Athenian hero" (208), "[t]he greatest hero of Greece" (225), and "loved adventure as much as the most dauntless hero" (246). Of all the hero stories that you read, which hero was the greatest? What defines a hero? What makes some people merely great and others great, renowned, dauntless? Remember to include quotes from the text to support your reasons for choosing the hero that you did.
3. Create an original Story of Love modeled after the three from Hamilton. In your myth, include allusions to other myths or mythical characters who may be heroes, gods, or lovers. Greek myths of love show the power of love to be so strong that it drives the characters to perform incredible feats to be together. Include a great challenge for the lovers to overcome and a resolution that explains why humans remember them in nature, i.e. why nightingales sing so sweetly or the berries are red. You may want to read more than the three assigned myths to deepen your understanding of the myth structure.

Grading Rubric

- Hero clearly identified and described
- Direct and indirect quotes support claims and assertions
- Specific connections to other myths through character or plot.
- Essay is organized in a logical manner.
- Minimum of two pages.
- MLA format followed with few errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, and spelling