

Additional Optional Summer Reading

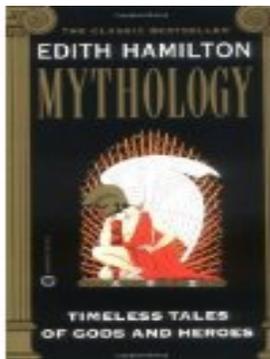
For Students taking AP Literature and Composition

Welcome to AP Literature – one of the most rewarding English courses offered at MHS. This summer's required reading is *The Kite Runner* by *Khalid Hosseini*. In addition, in order to more fully understand the many biblical and mythological allusions found in course readings, it is suggested that you familiarize yourself with the major myths as well as prominent Old and New Testament Bible passages. Familiarity with these myths and Bible stories will help you to better understand themes and motifs found in the literature we will explore next year (*Note: we approach the Christian Bible as a work of literature, just as in college many students take the course titled "The Bible as Literature".*)

Hamilton's classic book *Mythology* is preferred, but Robert Graves *The Greek Myths* is also a reliable source for the major Greek myths.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mrs. Seeley for AP Literature (seelem@bay.k12.fl.us).

Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton



Edith Hamilton loved the ancient Western myths with a passion--and this classic compendium is her tribute. "The tales of Greek mythology do not throw any clear light upon what early mankind was like," Hamilton explains in her introduction. "They do throw an abundance of light upon what early Greeks were like--a matter, it would seem, of more importance to us, who are their descendants intellectually, artistically, and politically. Nothing we learn about them is alien to ourselves." Fans of Greek mythology will find all the great stories and characters here--Perseus, Hercules, and Odysseus--each discussed in generous detail by the voice of an impressively knowledgeable and engaging (with occasional lapses) narrator. This is also an excellent primer for middle- and high-school students who are studying ancient Greek and Roman culture and literature. --Gail Hudson

Since a great deal of what we read includes allusions to Greek and Roman mythology, a working knowledge of the major myths is imperative. While you are encouraged to read all of Hamilton's *Mythology*, you will be tested only on the following chapters *sometime in the first few weeks of school*.

Part One: *The Gods, the Creation and the Earliest Heroes*

Part Two: *Stories of Love and Adventure*

Part Three: *The Great Heroes before the Trojan War*

Part Four: *The Heroes of the Trojan War*

Part Five: *The Great Families of Mythology: Ch. 18 "The Royal House of Thebes"*

The Bible

Just as a working knowledge of Greek and Roman mythology is vital to understanding literature, so is familiarity with the Bible, especially the passages noted below (*I recommend reading these four canonical books - Genesis, Exodus, Matthew and Luke - in their entirety if you have the time.*) These can be found in any version of the Bible, *including online sources*. The King James Version is preferred since it is written in the most poetic language, and it is the Bible that Shakespeare used. If you prefer a more modern version, the best options are the ESV (English Standard Version) or the NIV (New International Version). Again, both of these also can be found online. To clarify the notation of Biblical passages, chapter numbers are placed before the colon; verse numbers follow the colon. *Genesis 6:9 means Genesis, chapter 6, verse 9.*

The King James Bible can be found online at <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org>

Biblical Passages:

1. Genesis, Chapters 1-4 (Creation, Adam & Eve, the Fall, Cain & Abel)
2. Genesis, 6:9-9:7 (Chapter 6, verse 9 to Ch. 9, verse 6. Noah, the Flood)
3. Genesis, 11:1-9 (The Tower of Babel)
4. Genesis, Chapter 19 (Sodom & Gomorrah, Lot's Wife)
5. Genesis, Chapter 22:1-18 (Abraham & Isaac)
6. Exodus, Chapter 3:1-10 (The Burning Bush)
7. Exodus, Chapter 14:5-31 (The Parting of the Sea)
8. Exodus, Chapter 32 (The Golden Calf)
9. I Samuel, Chapters 17 & 18 (David & Goliath/Saul)
10. 2 Samuel, Chapter 11 (David & Bathsheba)
11. I Kings, Chapter 3:16-28 (Solomon's Wisdom)
12. Job, 1:1-2:10 (God and Satan discuss Job)
13. Matthew, 5:1-13 (The Beatitudes)
14. Matthew, 14:1-21 (John the Baptist/Loaves and Fishes)
15. Matthew, 19:16-24 (Wealth and Salvation)
16. Matthew, 26:14-56 (Thirty pieces of silver/Gethsemane/Betrayed with a kiss)
17. Matthew. 27:27-31 (Mocked by soldiers)
18. Luke, 6:24-31 (Wealth/Turning the other cheek)
19. Luke, 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan)
20. Luke, 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son)
21. John, 2:1-11 (Water into Wine)
22. John, 8:1-11 (The First Stone)
23. John, 11:1-44 (Lazarus)
24. John, 20:24-31 (Doubting Thomas)
25. Revelations, Chapter 6 (The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse)