

Summer Reading 2018-2019

- I. Read **Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor***, the revised edition (ISBN: 978-0-06-230167-3).

In addition to recognizing classical allusions, you will learn to think critically, to look at what you read—differently. You will learn to think beyond the plot of a novel. You should take notes over each section of *HTRLLAP* in the same notebook as the mythology notes. For each chapter, provide a 5-7 sentence summary of Foster's key points. I expect these to be written in complete sentences and for you to carefully read and condense the key ideas of each chapter.

We will spend much of the first six weeks on these two works, and Foster will be used throughout the year. Therefore, failure to read them will be devastating. You will take exams, write essays, and create projects over these selections (assignments are subject to change). Do yourself a favor; be prepared. I would strongly advise you NOT to wait until prep days to begin this. I expect you to know and retain (not memorize) the information. Be prepared for some type of assessment during the first six weeks.

If you have questions as you complete the assignment, email me at Julie.Davern@nisd.net so I can give you guidance. Additional resources will also be posted online to help you with your summer work. Go to the CAHS website (<http://www.nisd.net/cahs>) and click on the link for SUMMER READING.

- II. Read **Edith Hamilton's *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*** (ISBN-13: 9780316223331). The overall purpose of reading this text is to help you become familiar with the collection of myths that form the core of what is considered Western mythology, that is, the myths produced by western cultures (Greek and Roman). These myths have long been part of our literary culture and are important to recognize. Let the following ideas guide your reading:

- These myths reveal the worldviews of the cultures that produced them and are, therefore, central in helping us understand those cultures and, in turn, give us insight into our own.
- The writers in western societies have made -- and continue to make -- countless references to these myths, assuming that readers are familiar with the original stories.
- Being familiar with the myths is an integral part of being "culturally literate."
- Being culturally literate about Western culture allows you to investigate other cultures' values and worldviews with more understanding.

Reading Expectations and Guidelines

Hamilton's *Mythology* is a readable, understandable, and comprehensive text and a necessity for all AP Literature and Composition students. The stories themselves are indeed "timeless" in the sense that they often reveal universal truths about human nature even for the most contemporary reader. Nevertheless, the book does include very detailed information. Therefore, let me give you some direction:

1) Read to become familiar with the plots of the myths. Read to discover what happens in the stories. Read to enjoy these stories. Read each of the following chapters in their entirety, unless otherwise instructed:

- Introduction
- Part 1: The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes
- Part 2: Stories of Love and Adventure
- Part 3: The Great Heroes before the Trojan War
- Part 4: The Heroes of the Trojan War
- Part 5: The Great Families of Mythology
- Part 6: The Less Important Myths

2) As you read each chapter, try to become familiar with the names of the important characters, creatures, and places in order to be able to identify them with at least a few essentials. Also, you will learn more about major gods in later chapters, so leave some room or develop some kind of coding system. You should know

- their Greek and Roman names (Zeus/Jupiter),
- any symbols associated with them (aegis, thunder, eagle, oak and bull),
- of what they are the god (the sky, the god of all gods).
- any stories that are associated with each god.

You will take these notes—in some form of organized note taking—in a 100 page, stitched composition book (not a spiral or loose-leaf paper). You will need to **number** your pages in the top, outside corners of each page, front and back (you should have 200 pages total). Begin taking notes on **page 5** of this notebook (regardless of the text you start first). These notes will be collected for a grade during the first week of school. (FYI, the first 4 pages will be your table of contents; we will set this up when school begins.) You will be graded on the completion, thoroughness, and quality of your notes. See handout for taking notes on mythology. The better your notes are the easier #3 will be. **These notes will be in the same notebook as the Foster notes.** See “Taking Notes for Summer Reading” handout.

3) In the **FIRST week of school, be prepared to take a mythology test.** (This is not as easy as it may seem because in mythology, LOGIC is DEAD. Be prepared to show that you know which characters did what, who’s related to who, the stories of creation, anything and everything. Read carefully and thoroughly. This is a massive amount of information.)

Enjoy your summer. Enjoy the works. I look forward to seeing you next year.
