

Academic Summer Reading

Dear Parent and Student,

Welcome to Academic English. This course covers British literature, poetry, Shakespeare, and drama. And, of course, grammar, vocabulary, and WRITING.

The summer reading assignment is Edith Hamilton's *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*. I am suggesting a reading schedule (without dates since I do not know your particular schedule), but you may choose to read it any way you want. I do encourage you, however, to break it down into "doable" parts (a life skill, believe me), rather than attempt to read and take notes all in one sitting (yes, some have tried. It did not go well).

You will have a **test** over the material in the book **on the first day of school**. DO NOT wait until the night before school starts. You will ruin your first day of school, and you will – in all probability – do very poorly on the test, meaning you start the nine weeks with a very poor test grade. You may use your notebook in which you have taken notes. YOU MAY NOT USE THE BOOK ITSELF or any typed or printed materials. All notes should be handwritten. The test follows the order of the book, so make sure your notes do as well. You will not have time to flip back and forth in your notebook, trying to find the answer. The test is fill-in-the-blank and short answer. **There is no word bank.**

Literature and poetry are filled with mythological allusion and your reading will be richer for having some familiarity and understanding of these myths. This work is important in the classic and historic sense, but even more so in the spiritual sense. An understanding of mythology is an aid to Christian apologetics – for every culture has origin, governance (gods), and flood stories.

Here is the suggested schedule broken down into weeks:

Week One: The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes

Week Two: Stories of Love and Adventure

Week Three: The Great Heroes before the Trojan War

Week Four: The Heroes of the Trojan War

Week Five: The Great Families of Mythology (just to page 389 – finish the story of Antigone)

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ the rest of that section OR parts SIX (The Lesser Myths) or SEVEN (The Mythology of the Norsemen). You can, of course, read them if you want to. 😊

I have been asked what kind of notes to take. As an example of the summary on Hercules, you might include his background (illegitimate son of Zeus), his action as a baby that demonstrated his strength (strangled two snakes sent by Hera to kill him while he was in his crib), and a list of his 12 labors (and why he had to do them). Easy-peasy.

Do not focus on tiny details. The questions on the test deal with the major points of the mythological stories. DO list both the Roman and the Greek names for the gods. Know names of kings, gods, goddesses, heroes, etc.

Please call, text, or email me if you have questions or want me to check over your work to see if you are taking the right kind/amount of notes. I will be more than happy to do so. My cell number is 236-6344, and my email is bcollins@1bcs.org. Enjoy your summer and your summer reading!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Collins