**Honors English I**

**Summer Assignment, 2017**

The following assignments are due the first day of school.

**ASSIGNMENT #1: SUMMER READINGS**

The following readings should be completed by the first day of class. A summer reading assessment will be given at the start of the school year.

Please purchase the following editions of each text. In order to facilitate classroom discussions, it is important that we are working from the same editions.

* **Of Mice and Men**, by John Steinbeck  
  (Penguin Books – ISBN: 0140177396)

Read and annotate the entire novel **Of Mice and Men**.

* **Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes**, by Edith Hamilton  
  (Grand Central Publishing – ISBN: 0446574759

Read and annotate the following chapters and sections of **Mythology**:

* Introduction to Classical Mythology
* Part I, Chapter I: The Gods
* Part I, Chapter II: The Two Great Gods of Earth
* Part I, Chapter II: How the World and Mankind Were Created
* Part II, Chapter II Eight Brief Tales of Lovers (only “Pyramus and Thisbe”)
* Part 4, Chapter I: The Heroes of the Trojan War
* Part 4, Chapter II: The Fall of Troy
* Part 4, Chapter III: The Adventures of Odysseus

While the book is full of fascinating stories about Greek, Roman, and Norse myth, and you are more than welcome to read it in its entirety, you are only responsible for these chapters.

TEXT ANNOTATIONS

Annotating a text involves writing directly in a work of literature while you read it. You should read with a pen, pencil, and highlighter in hand. Annotations should take place directly **in** the book, written **on** the page.

Ways to actively engage with the text:

* At the end of each chapter or section, briefly summarize what just happened
* Note important passage and quotes, and comment on why they are important
* Ask questions and talk with the author (emotionally respond to the text

*Caution: While highlighting and underlining the text is valuable, do not underline and highlight everything. Your comments are more important, and if you highlight everything, nothing stands out*.

**ASSIGNMENT #2: GREEK GODS CHART**

The Greek Gods Chart corresponds directly with **Mythology** and you should be able to complete the chart just using your summer reading. The amount of information available for each god will vary. You should not conduct outside research to complete this chart.

**ASSIGNMENT #3: MYTHOLOGY REVIEW QUESTIONS**

Answer the following questions in **complete sentences**, incorporating the questions into your response. **Answer should be typed** and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Printed answer sheets will be collected the first day of class.

***MYTHOLOGY* by Edith Hamilton**

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

**Instructions:**  Answer the following questions in **complete sentences**, incorporating the question into your response. Answers should be **typed** and **free of spelling and grammar errors**. Printed answer sheets will be collected the first day of class.

**INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**

1. According to Hamilton, how does Greek mythology differ from the folklore of other ancient cultures? Why does it differ?

2. What purpose did the myths serve in early Greece?

3. When were the myths recorded? Name some of the people who recorded the myths. Did these authors believe in the myths?

**Part I, Chapter I: THE GODS**

4. Who were the first parents of lifelike creatures? Who were their children and grandchildren?

5. Describe the Titans.

6. Who was the most important Titan? What did he do? Who was his son?

7. Describe Olympus.

8. Describe the underworld. Who ruled it and what happened to the souls who entered its domain?

**Part I, Chapter II: THE TWO GREAT GODS OF EARTH**

9. Who was Persephone? Tell the story of her abduction and rescue. How did this incident explain the seasons to the early Greeks?

10. Who were the maenads, or bacchantes? What was their connection to Dionysus? In what way do they represent the dual power of wine?

11. What was Dionysus’ connection with Greek drama?

**Part I, Chapter III: HOW THE WORLD & MANKIND WERE CREATED**

12. Describe the creation of Earth and Heaven.

13. Who were the first creatures on Earth before humans?

14. What steps did Zeus take to become ruler of Heaven and Earth? How did he prepare the way for humans to live on Earth?

15. Describe the world as the Greeks saw it.

16. In one creation story, Prometheus and Epimetheus created humans. How? What gifts did Prometheus give to humans? Why?

17. In a second creation story, the gods created five ages of humans. Name these ages, describe the people who lived in each, and tell their fate.

18. Who was the first woman, and why was she created? What harm did she bring to Earth?

19. What did Prometheus do that led to his being chained to a rock in the Caucasus and punished?

20. Because of his sufferings, what does Prometheus symbolize today? Why?

21. Another story of creation begins with a flood. Who survived the flood, and what were they directed to do? Why?

CHAPTER 4: THE EARLIEST HEROES (The Cyclops Polyphemus)

22. Briefly tell the story of the Cyclops Polyphemus.

**Part II, Chapter II: EIGHT BRIEF TALES OF LOVERS  
(PYRAMUS AND THISBE)**

23. Briefly tell the story of Pyramus and Thisbe.

**Part IV, Chapter I: THE HEROES OF THE TROJAN WAR**

24. What was the cause of the long and famous Trojan War?

25. How did the goddess of Discord, Eris, cause the trouble?

26. Who was the fairest woman in the world? To whom was she married?

27. Who were the King and Queen of Troy? Who were destined to die in battle?

28. What saved Paris when he faced Menelaus in combat?

29. With Achilles gone, who were the two greatest champions of the Greek side?

30. Who killed Hector, and who finally got Hector’s body for burial?

**Part IV, Chapter II: THE FALL OF TROY**

31. Why does Achilles’ mother dip him in the River Styx? How does her plan not quite work out as intended?

32. Who shot Achilles and who got his armor?

33. What trick was devised to get the Greeks into Troy?

34. What became of the woman whose face “launched a thousand ships”?

**Part IV, Chapter III: The Adventures of Odysseus**

35. Summarize the adventures of Odysseus, focusing on the key events.