

History/English 9
Travis

Edith Hamilton's Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes

- You may use any edition of *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton. This book should be easy to find; check a local library, online or at a new or used book store.

In many ways, this text will form the backbone of our study this year, especially when we study Greece and Rome, so read carefully. Try to get these myths into your imagination.

You are to have the study questions completed by the first Friday of school. Yes, there are many questions here, I know. Eat this elephant one bite at a time. These questions and answers will serve as a valuable reference for much of the literature we will be covering this year. I assure you that the more thorough you are now, the better you will grasp the Greek and Roman mythological world and the better you will understand what we're reading and discussing this year.

Please read the following:

1. INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY
2. all of PART ONE: The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes
3. PART TWO: Stories of Love and Adventure
 - o Chapter 5 – Cupid and Psyche
 - o Chapter 7 – The Quest of the Golden Fleece
4. PART THREE: The Great Heroes Before the Trojan War
 - o Chapter 9 – Perseus
 - o Chapter 10 -- Theseus
 - o Chapter 11 – Hercules
5. all of PART FOUR: The Heroes of the Trojan War
6. PART FIVE: The Great Families of Mythology
 - o Chapter 17 – The House of Atreus
 - o Chapter 18 – The Royal House of Thebes

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Study Questions

Introduction

1. What is the purpose of Greek and Roman mythology?
2. What is the first written record of Greece called and who was the author?
3. What do the myths show us about the early Greeks?

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

1. What did the Greeks believe about the origins of the gods and the universe?
2. Make a chart with the following information about the 12 Olympians: Give a) Greek Name, b) Roman Name, c) places associated with each, d) sacred animals/plants, e) objects, f) attributes/activities.
3. Briefly describe the roles of the Muses and Graces.
4. What did the Greeks think was at the very beginning of things?
5. What were the next six creations, in order?
6. Who was Cronus, and why was he significant?
7. How did Zeus become the ruler of heaven and earth?
8. Describe the Greek concept of the geography of the earth.
9. What is so significant about Prometheus?
10. Who was Pandora and why was she created? What is Pandora's box?

Part 2: Stories of Love and Adventure

1. List the top six highlights of the story of Cupid and Psyche
2. Who is Jason? Why does his journey matter?
3. Why did Jason go in search of the Golden Fleece?
4. What are the creatures that torment Phineas called? How are they destroyed?
5. Name Jason's ship and some of the heroes who traveled with him.
6. Who helps Jason and why?

Part 3: The Great Heroes Before the Trojan War

1. Write out 5 of your own questions and answers over the story of Perseus.
2. Why did Minos demand 14 youths and maidens? What/ who is Minotaur? What happened to these youths?
3. How did Theseus kill the Minotaur?
4. When the friends got to the underworld, who knew their plan? What was the fate of Pirithous? Of Theseus?
5. List the twelve labors of Hercules.

Part 4: The Heroes of the Trojan War

1. What was the Judgment of Paris? What caused the Trojan War?
2. Who were the main combatants and gods on the Greek side?
3. Who were the main combatants and gods on the Trojan side?
4. Briefly summarize the adventures of Odysseus (4-5 sentences).
5. Briefly summarize the adventures of Aeneas (4-5 sentences).

Part 5: The Great Families of Mythology

1. Briefly summarize the events surrounding the life of Oedipus (4-5 sentences).