

Name: _____

Summer Reading Questions for Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*

Directions: Answer the following questions on this sheet of paper. You will turn these questions in on the first day of school.

Introduction:

1. What is “the miracle of Greek mythology” (3-5)?
2. How are the Greek gods different from Egyptian or Mesopotamian gods?
3. What makes Greek myth rational? (5-7)
4. What are the “dark spots” referred to by Edith Hamilton?
5. How do early myths function as early literature and early science?
6. What was Ovid’s purpose? Hesiod’s?
7. Name 5 other writers of myth.

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

Chapter One: The Gods

Please fill in the chart below.

	Greek Name	Roman Name	Domain	Symbol
1.	Zeus			
2.	Hera			
3.	Poseidon			
4.	Hades			
5.	Athena			
6.	Apollo			
7.	Artemis			
8.	Aphrodite			
9.	Hermes			
10.	Ares			
11.	Hephaestos			
12.	Hestia			
13.	Eros			
14.	Demeter			
15.	Dionysus			

2. Briefly describe the following:

Iris

Hebe

Graces (also name them):

Muses (also name them):

3. Briefly describe the following gods of waters:

Nereus

Triton

Proteus

4. Briefly describe the following gods of the underworld:

Tartarus

Erebus

Charon

Acheron

Lethe

5. Briefly describe these lesser gods:

Pan

Silenus

Castor & Pollux

Satyrs

Aeolus

Zephyr:

Boreas:

Centaur

Chiron

Gorgons

Sirens

Fates (also name them):

Chapter 2: The Two Great Gods of Earth: Demeter (Ceres) / Dionysus (Bacchus)

1. Why are Demeter and Dionysus both called “suffering gods”? How do they differ from the Olympians?
2. Who are the Maenads?
3. What is the connection between Dionysus and the Greek theater?

Chapter 3: How the World and Mankind Were Created

1. Who are Gaia and Ouranos?
2. Explain how the theme of “fathers vs. sons” plays out in the earliest of the gods.
3. Who are Prometheus and Epimetheus?
4. What gifts does Epimetheus give to animals? What does Prometheus give to mankind to make us superior to animals?
5. What is the second version of creation, the five stages of man?
6. What does Prometheus do that angers Zeus?

7. How is Prometheus tortured?
8. Why is Pandora created?
9. Why does Zeus send a flood to earth?
10. Who are the only two survivors?
11. Who are the Stone People?

Chapter 4: The Earliest Heroes

1. Summarize the story of Prometheus and Io.
2. Briefly summarize the story of Europa and Ganymede.
3. Briefly tell about Narcissus.
4. Briefly tell about Hyacinth.
5. Name two other flower-myth namesakes.

Part Two: Stories of Love and Adventure

Chapter 5: Cupid and Psyche

1. How Does Psyche compare in beauty with her sisters?
2. What plan does Venus have for Psyche?
3. What happens when Cupid meets Psyche?
4. How does “the mildest of winds” help Psyche?

5. How do her sisters create doubts about Psyche's future husband?

6. How does this myth end?

Chapter 6: Eight Brief Tales of Lovers

1. How does the myth of Pyramus and Thisbe explain the deep red color of the mulberry bush?

2. How does the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice explain the sweetness of the nightingale's song?

3. How does the myth of Ceyx and Alcyone explain the idea of Halcyon days?

4. How does the myth of Pygmalion and Galatea illustrate the power of love?

a. Why does Pygmalion decide to remain a bachelor?

b. Under what circumstances does he fall in love?

c. How does Pygmalion act after this?

d. Who helps Pygmalion in his desire to have the woman he loves?

e. How does this story end?

Chapter 7: The Quest of the Golden Fleece

1. What is the Golden Fleece?

2. Who is Pelias? Why is he worried about a "One-sandaled" stranger?

3. Why does Jason seek the Golden Fleece? Who helps him in his quest?

4. What are three adventures he has along the way?

5. How does the King of Colchis treat Jason when he arrives? What test does he put Jason through?

6. How does Medea figure in these events?

7. What happens to Pelias after Jason returns with the Golden Fleece? What does Jason do to Medea at the end?

Chapter 8: Four Great Adventurers

1. Briefly recount the following stories:

Phaeton:

Pegasus and Bellerophon:

Daedalus:

Part Three: The Great Heroes Before the Trojan War

Chapter 9: Perseus

1. How is Perseus' birth magical?

2. Compare events in Perseus' life to the following elements of a "Cinderella" story:

a. Cinderella's fairy godmother gives her a ball gown and a coach.

b. Cinderella has certain rules to follow, such as leaving the ball by midnight.

c. Cinderella is rescued from a miserable life by her fairy godmother.

d. Cinderella gets the prince in the end.

Chapter 10: You may skip this chapter for now.

Chapter 11: Hercules

1. What are four examples of Hercules' great strength?

2. How could you interpret the following quote: “Intelligence did not figure largely in anything he did and was often conspicuously absent”?
3. What happens to Hercules when Hera sends madness to possess him?
4. Is he considered guilty of his crimes?
5. How does Hercules become involved in battling Death?
6. What happens after Hercules completes the twelve labors?
7. How does he die and why is he allowed onto Mount Olympus?

Skip Parts Four-Five for Now

Part Six: The Less Important Myths

Chapter 20: Midas and Others

1. Briefly recount the stories of the following mythological figures:
Midas

Aesculapius

The Danaids

Glaucus and Scylla

Erysichthon

Pomona and Vertumnus

You may skip the rest of the book for now. We will read these chapters during the school year.

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!

