MYTHOLOGY

As your first assignment in ninth grade English, you will be reading excerpts from Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology*, an anthology of essential Greek myths. Learning these will prepare you for other literature you will study in high school as well as contribute to your cultural literacy. Greek mythology surrounds you! On the first day of school, August 11, you will turn in the following assignment. Within the first three weeks, you will be tested on Greek Mythology. This pre-requisite assignment and the test will be combined for a Major Test Grade.

Directions for completing the Summer Pre-requisite Assignment -

You will read certain sections of *Mythology* and then complete each assigned task below.

1. Read Chapter 1 pgs. 21-37 about the main gods/goddesses of Mt. Olympus.
   Assignment: Make a chart for each god/goddess. See example below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek Name (Roman Name)</th>
<th>Main Areas of Responsibility</th>
<th>Symbols</th>
<th>Brief summary of important stories/facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zeus (Jupiter)</td>
<td>Ruler of Mt. Olympus</td>
<td>Thunderbolt, eagle, oak tree, aegis (breastplate)</td>
<td>Brothers - Poseidon and Hades; married to Hera; had affairs with mortal women; power is limited (fate); both just and unjust</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Read about “Lesser gods/goddesses,” for example the Graces and the Muses (p.39 & 40), the Underworld (p. 42-44), the Lesser gods of earth (p. 44-49) focusing on Pan, the satyrs, Aeolus, the centaurs, the gorgons, and the sirens.
   Assignment: Make a similar chart for these characters; however, set it up like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Main duties</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Muses</td>
<td>Inspire men to knowledge and creativity.</td>
<td>There are 9 and they are lovely women. Companions of Apollo, daughters of Zeus and Memory and each had their own special field.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. The following stories – Demeter (p. 57-64); The Earliest Heroes p. 94-105 (first half), Echo and Narcissus p. 113 (bottom half) to p. 115 (first half); Cupid and Psyche p. 121-134; Orpheus and Thisbe p. 138-142 (top half); Phaeton p. 180-184; Read the short synopsis of the god Dionysius pg. 72.

Assignment: Please summarize each of these sections in 3-4 sentences.

4. Read the following longer stories of famous heroes:
   Perseus p. 197-208; Theseus p. 209-223; Hercules p. 224-243

Assignment: For each hero, list their main feats (for Hercules list each labor) and any object that magically helped them.

5. Finish off with the story of Atalanta p. 244-25, Midas p. 411-413; Tantalus and Pelops p. 346-348 (middle of the page).

Assignment: Choose one of these and re-tell it in your own words.

Please staple your work together and make sure your name and the due date are printed on the front. If you enjoy reading about Greek mythology, you may also want to try the Percy Jackson series as many students have enjoyed the gods/goddesses in a modern setting.

Sign below

The assignments I will turn in on August 11th represent my work alone after reading the listed excerpts from Edith Hamilton’s book Mythology.

Student Signature: ________________________________

Looking forward to meeting you in the ninth grade!

Mrs. O’Kelley