

NEW COVENANT schools

Summer Reading List: Grade 9

All ninth-grade students are required to read *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton. This book was handed out at the end of eighth grade, and it is for students to use and keep. Students are encouraged to read over the comprehension questions below before beginning the book and to annotate in their books to help answer the questions accurately.

Answers to the questions will be turned in on the first day of school. They may be typed or neatly handwritten.

In addition, all ninth-grade students are encouraged to read one or more of the following books:

King Solomon's Mines by H. Rider Haggard
The Prisoner of Zenda by Anthony Hope
Mr. Midshipman Hornblower by C. S. Forester
The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy

Students will receive extra credit and house points for reading any of these books if a short summary of the book is turned in at the beginning of the school year. Any student who reads **three** of the additional books will receive a gift certificate to Givens Bookstore.

Please email Mrs. Arango at jarango@newcovenantschools.org if you have any questions.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Directions: Respond to each question after reading the required sections of Edith Hamilton's *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*. Each response should be one paragraph (5-7 sentences) in length and answer each part of the question. Use specific details from your reading in your responses.

I strongly encourage you to read the questions below before you begin reading the book. Annotate as you read to ensure accuracy.

Introduction and Part 1: The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes

- In the introduction, Edith Hamilton contrasts the ways the Greeks and earlier peoples viewed the world. What are the differences between them? How are we to read literature about the Greek gods in particular?

Part 2: Stories of Love and Adventure

- Choose three myths dealing with love and discuss how these myths illustrate the following three ideas about love: the essential element of trust; the acceptance of pain or suffering on behalf of love; valuing a person for him/herself and not for external appearances.

Part 3: The Great Heroes before the Trojan War

- Using the format below, fill in the corresponding information for two of the Heroes in Part 3.
 - Format/Chart:

Hero:		
Strange or Noble Early Years:		
Major Obstacles (either self-inflicted or externally inflicted):		
Interaction with the Underworld/Supernatural:		
Major Heroic Accomplishment(s):		

Part 4: The Heroes of the Trojan War

- Discuss the Judgement of Paris and its implications for the Trojan War.
How did the Greeks assemble their army and make their way to Troy?
What was the result of the Trojan War and what was Odysseus' role?

Part 5: The Great Families of Mythology

- For either The House of Atreus and The Royal House of Thebes, discuss how pride leads to the ultimate downfall and destruction of the family unit.

Part 6: The Less Important Myths

- A common theme in Greek mythology involves punishment that befalls those who try to see themselves as equal to the gods. Consider **four** of the lesser myths (Ch. 21) and discuss the sin/punishment element in each of these myths and the lesson that all four put forth.
 - To structure your response: consider writing a topic sentence, then one summarizing sentence for each myth, followed by one sentence responding to their combined lesson/moral.

Part 7: The Mythology of the Norsemen

- Contrast the Greek and the Norse explanation for the beginning of the world.