

CR ELA I Summer Reading

Hello, and happy summer!

Welcome to College Ready ELA I. Our objective for CR English students in your freshman year is to prepare you for three things: college, the AP tests you'll take your Junior and Senior year of high school, and for being a lifelong reader and writer.

Over the summer, you'll have a 3-part assignment to prepare for this class. The first is to read parts of Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, a fun-to-read and thorough description of the Greek myths that still inform our culture and stories. The school has some copies you may check out from the front office. ***(Please call the office to see if any are still available.)*** You may also purchase your own copy at any bookstore or on an e-reader. (Any edition will do, so long as it is the version written by Edith Hamilton).

The second will be to read a novel of your choice. We've compiled a list that current 9th grade students have recommended that follow the Hero's Journey, which will be a significant and regular part of our conversations next year.

The third is to answer questions over a film that also follows the Hero's Journey. If you think you may have another story of a hero that you'd like to view instead, email your teacher over the summer and we'll do some homework and let you know if it fits.

You should do these assignments in order. Knowing the Greek myths first will help you know what is being asked for in the outside reading and viewing sections.

Please know that some families may not find all of the optional readings and films appropriate for their students. ***We strongly suggest that parents and students do research and discuss with each other whether a particular book or film would be right for them.***

Please take this assignment seriously. It is not only the groundwork for our studies this year and in the future, but also shows me that you are ready for the rigors of the CR English track. Failure to complete this assignment on time could result in a schedule change out of CR English.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have! I can be reached at steve.garcia@lagovista.txed.net.

Have a great summer, and we look forward to meeting you all!

Steve Garcia
CR ELA I & II/Debate
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Part I: Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*:

Read "Part 1: The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes"; "Part 2: Stories of Love and Adventure"; Part III: The Great Heroes before the Trojan War"; "Part Four: Heroes of the Trojan War" (but only "The Trojan War" and "The Fall of Troy"); the story of Midas, and under "Brief Myths", read:

- The Amazons
- Orion
- Sisyphus

Assignment: On the attached page, for each myth, give a brief summary (3-5 sentences for short ones, 3 sentences per page of longer ones like The Argonauts) about what happens in the myth and what lesson or explanation for a natural event it demonstrates.

Example: In the story of "Icarus and Daedalus", Daedalus builds a set of wings for himself and his son to escape the island of Crete. Icarus flies too close to the sun; his wings melt, and he falls into the ocean and drowns. This story demonstrates the danger of pride and the impulsiveness of youth.

Evaluation: There will be a quiz over major characters at the beginning of the 2nd week of school.

NOTE: For assistance with the note taking, please refer to the attached "Mythology Note Taking Guide" attached at the end of this assignment.

Part II: Independent Reading:

Choose a novel that you would like to read. It should be at least 200+ pages and slightly challenging (but still engaging) to you as a reader. If you're not an avid reader, but are looking for something interesting, I've compiled the following list based on suggestions from current-9th-graders and my own preferences:

The Book Thief

Coraline

Ready Player One

The Hunger Games

I am Number Four

The Darkest Mind

Inkheart

The Golden Compass

The Hobbit

Divergent

The Giver

An Ember in the Ashes

Throne of Glass

A Thousand Pieces of You

Please consult with your parents before reading an outside book for appropriateness according to your family. If you or your family has questions as to whether a book would be appropriate for you, I would suggest checking the website www.common sense media.org.

Outside Reading Assignment: in 300-500 words, describe how characters, situations, or trials in your book resemble one or more of the mythological stories you read about. This can be very broad! Do your best to make comparisons, even if you're not quite sure they're exact comparisons.

Evaluation: the writing assignment will be due on the **first day** of school.

Part III: Independent Viewing:

We will be discussing heroes and their journeys very often in class. You should have *at least one film* that you are familiar with to discuss for our first project over heroes and mythology. Please consult with your parents before viewing any films for appropriateness according to your family.

Suggested viewing list (choose at least 1):

- *Iron Man*
- *Captain America: The First Avenger*
- *Thor*
- *Star Wars: A New Hope*
- *Batman Begins*
- *The Hunger Games*
- *Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark*
- *Big Hero 6*
- *Frozen*
- *Brave*
- *How to Train your Dragon*
- *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- *Divergent*

Outside Viewing Assignment: Complete the "Independent Viewing Log" for one film of your choice.

Evaluation: the "Independent Viewing Log" will be due on the **first day** of school.

Edith Hamilton's **Mythology**
Note-Taking Guide

Instructions:

For each entry, briefly recall the character or event, and explain their significance or influence. For longer stories or entries (the Golden Fleece, The Trojan War) you'll need a longer entry.

The Titans and the Twelve Great Olympians

Zeus

Poseidon

Hades

Hestia

Hera

Ares

Athena

Apollo

Aphrodite

Hermes

Artemis

Hephaestus

The Lesser Gods of Olympus

Eros

Hebe

Iris

The Graces

The Muses

The Gods of the Waters

Poseidon

Ocean

Pontus

Nereus

Triton

Proteus

The Naiads

The Underworld

Cerebus

The Erinyes (The Furies)

The Lesser Gods of Earth

Demeter

Dionysus

Pan

The Centaurs

The Gorgons

The Graiae

The Sirens

The Fates

How the world and Mankind were Created

Prometheus and Io

Europa

The Cyclops

Flower-Myths

Part Two: Stories of Love and Adventure

Cupid and Psyche

Pyramus and Thisbe

Orpheus and Eurydice

The Quest of the Golden Fleece

Phaethon

Pegasus and Bellerophon

Otus and Ephialtes

Daedalus

The Great Heroes before the Trojan War

Perseus

Theseus

Hercules

Atlanta

The Heroes of the Trojan War

The Trojan War

The Fall of Troy

The Less Important Myths

Midas

The Amazons

Orion

Sisyphus

Part III: Independent Film Viewing Log

Answer in complete sentences

Who is the main character? What position are they in at the beginning of the film?

Who are his/her parents? What is/was their job? Are they still alive? Are/were they respected? How?

Does this character have to leave home? Why? What calls them to do so?

Does this hero have a mentor? If so, describe the mentor.

Does this character have a special ability? If so, describe the ability.

Does this character have a special weapon? If so, describe the weapon. How does this weapon fit the character and their personality?

Who is this character's enemy? Are the hero and the villain similar in any way?
How?

Does the character have to descend or enter a cave or some other threatening place?

Does the character have to make a sacrifice? If so, what is their sacrifice?

Does the character bring back something to their people/culture at the end of the film? If so, what? This can be a literal object, or it can be something more abstract, like peace or safety.

How is the main character's life at the end of the film different than their life at the beginning of the film?

Do any part or parts of this film remind you of any of the myths you read about? If so, which ones? Why?
