

Signature School Freshman Summer Assignment

Mythology Research Project

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Researchers believe that myths serve many functions. One of the most important functions is teaching the values and social norms of the culture. You will be examining one of these values and giving your interpretation using examples from the myths in Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*.

This research will not only help you with the project due at the beginning of the school year (more information on this project to come in the first week of school), but **you should also be prepared to complete an in-class writing over the myths** on the first day of school.

Instructions

Research

- Read Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*: ISBN 9780446574754
- Take thorough, organized notes on each section (label each section of the text in your notes).
 - o Write down names of key figures/characters as well as their individual characteristics;
 - o write down explanations of key events/conflicts (How did these conflicts arise? How did they end? Who was involved? Etc.);
 - o and write down anything else you may find essential within the myth.
- **These notes will be submitted on the first day of school.**

Analysis

- Choose ONE value from the provided list on the next page (**start keeping separate notes for this component, and please use COMPLETE SENTENCES for your answers to these questions**)
- Choose THREE stories from *Mythology* that teach something about that value
- For each of the three chosen stories, answer the questions: What is the myth trying to teach about your chosen value? Does a pattern exist (are they all trying to say the same things), or is each teaching something different about the chosen value?
 - o To answer these questions, you should be using at least TWO specific examples from each story that support your interpretation (i.e. quotes)
 - o Then you should explain specifically *how* your examples demonstrate the chosen value
 - Example: If you are writing about respecting the gods, you could briefly describe Odysseus' incident with the Cyclops, or you could give a quote from that story. THEN you should specifically explain *how* that example shows disrespect to the gods.
- **These notes will be submitted on the first day of school.**

Values

Choose one of the following values for analysis

- Hospitality
- Family
- Revenge
- Respecting the gods
- Prophecy or Fate
- Loyalty
- Rituals
- Pride