

## English II GT/Pre-AP Summer Reading Assignment

You will need to purchase the following two books:

***Edith Hamilton's Mythology***  
**Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451***

Both of these can be purchased at Barnes & Noble.

**After reading each of the books you will complete two assignments.**

1. For Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*- write an essay (see prompt below)
2. For Hamilton's *Mythology*- take notes on the questions below

Both assignments are due the first week of school.

**Remember:** Show how *you* interpret the books. Do not consult any secondary source, such as Spark Notes or their online equivalents.

### **Assignment #1:**

#### ***Fahrenheit 451* Essay**

One theme that appears in many works of science fiction is that technology is dangerous; it may change or harm human society in ways unforeseen by its designers. In a well-organized essay, explain how different kinds of technology in *Fahrenheit 451* contribute to the downfall of humanity. In addition, discuss what aspects of human nature enhance such destructiveness.

#### **Essay Requirements:**

- 2-3 pages, typed. Essay must follow all MLA guidelines.
- Must have minimum of four quotes from the novel, embedded into your essay as textual support.
- No outside sources needed. *Fahrenheit 451* will be your only source.
- Include a works cited page with *Fahrenheit 451* as your only source.
- This assignment will be graded using the attached rubric.

## **Assignment #2:**

### **Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* Focus Questions**

Please take notes on the following questions.

1. Creation and flood stories are found in several ancient narratives of world literature. Discuss some examples. Explain why you believe these creation stories were written.
2. What can you infer based on the portrayal of women in the myths? Consider Pandora, Cupid, and Psyche.
3. Which character from mythology seems to fit best with the following virtues?
  - patience
  - wit/ingenuity
  - bravery/perseverance
  - courage/integrity
4. How are the concepts of family, fate, loyalty, and justice a part of these myths/stories?
5. Discuss the following conflicts and topics found in Greek mythology:
  - good vs. evil
  - evil-death-punishment
  - ages of humanity
  - creation of man
6. Why might hospitality have been so important to the Greeks? Think about what you know of their world- trade, location, travel, etc. What was your favorite story from Hamilton's *Mythology* that communicated this value? Do you know of a story from another culture that teaches the value of hospitality? Why might myths be used to teach important values?
7. Describe the general pre-Greek perception of the gods.
8. What were the ethics of the gods like, at least in the beginning?
9. What character traits were most admired by the Greeks?
10. What trait is most frequently punished by the gods? Look at the story of Pegasus and Bellerophon.
11. Much of ancient mythology is meant to give creative explanations for things seen in nature. Describe a story or character in the book that does this.

12. What has science to do with mythology according to Edith Hamilton?
13. What purpose do these myths serve for human beings confronting the mystery of the world?
14. Hercules and Theseus were favorite heroes of Greece and Athens. Each had flaws and strengths. Which hero might be preferred in America? Which hero would you prefer, and why?
15. Choose one mythological character and discuss how this character is a reflection of who you are today. Which god, or hero, or character is most like you? What characteristics do you share?

**Complete the chart for the following key words and phrases from the Greek myths.**

Key Word or Phrase	Source(s)	Meaning	Contemporary Use
Midas Touch	Myth- Midas was given the gift of a golden touch by Dionysus.	Anything a person touches becomes money for them.	Donald Trump/Warren Buffett have the Midas touch.
Achilles Heel			
Adonis			
Apollo			
Argus-eyed			
Beware of Greeks bearing gifts			
Between Scylla and Charybdis			
Gordian Knot			
Hercules			
Pandora's Box			
Nemesis			

Oracle			
Phoenix			
Prometheus			
Protean			
Pygmalion			
Siren Song			
Sisyphean Task			
Sphinx			
Sword of Damocles			
Trojan Horse			

Take notes on the following Greek myths:

Greek Myth	Brief Summary
Centaur	
Cerberus	
Cupid	
Echo and Narcissus	
Fates	
Gorgon	
Harpy	
Hydra	
Hecate	
Helen of Troy	
Icarus	
Nemesis	
The Muses	
Paris and the Golden Apple	
Protean	

### AP Rubric

The score assigned should reflect the grader's judgment of the quality of the essay as a whole. Writers are to be rewarded for what they do well. The score for an exceptionally well-written essay may be raised by one point from the score otherwise appropriate. In no case may a poorly written essay be scored higher than a 3.

<b>98-96</b> <b>94-90</b>	<b>9-8</b>	The writers of these well-constructed essays completely answer the question using evidence and explaining the relevance of the evidence. With a convincing thesis, the write demonstrates a clear understanding of the task and the piece. Although not without flaws, these essays reflect the writer's ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing to provide a keen analysis of the literary text.
<b>88-86</b> <b>84-80</b>	<b>7-6</b>	Developing a sound thesis, these writers answer all parts of the question. These essays may not be entirely responsive to the underlying meanings, but they provide specific examples and meaningful evidence. The analysis is less persuasive and somewhat less sophisticated than 8 & 9 essays. They seem less insightful, or discussion is more limited. Nonetheless, they confirm the writer's ability to read literary texts with comprehension and to write with organization and control.
<b>78-75</b>	<b>5</b>	These essays construct a reasonable thesis. They discuss the work without serious errors but the analysis is often superficial. The writer may be vague and demonstrate insufficient development. Typically, these essays reveal simplistic thinking. May include misinterpretations of particular references or illustrations which distract from the overall effect. The writer also exhibits some lack of control over the elements of composition.
<b>74-70</b> <b>68-64</b>	<b>4-3</b>	These essays attempt to discuss the part of the question. The discussion, however, is undeveloped or inaccurate. These writers may misread the passage in an essential way or rely on paraphrase. Illustrations and examples tend to be misconstrued, inexact, or omitted altogether. The writing may be sufficient to convey ideas, but typically characterized by weak diction, syntax, grammar, or organization. Essays scored a 3 are even less able, may not refer to technique at all, and will exhibit even more misinterpretation, inadequate development, or serious omissions.
<b>60</b> <b>55</b>	<b>2-1</b>	These essays fail to respond adequately to the question. They may demonstrate confused thinking and/or weaknesses in grammar or other basic elements of composition. Mechanical errors may be distracting. They are often unacceptably brief. Although the writer may have made some attempt to answer the question, the views presented have little clarity or coherence, and significant problems with reading comprehension are evident. Essays that are scored 1 are especially inexact or mechanically unsound, and do less to address the topic.
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	This score is reserved for essays that make no more than a reference to the task, those that are off-topic, and for a blank sheet.