

This year's summer reading assignment will introduce you to the myths, stories, and legends that formed the worldview of Ancient Greece and Rome. One writer has said that the foundation of Western Civilization is "Greek stories and Hebrew prayers."

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* will give you an acquaintance with the myths and stories that recur often in the literature that you will read in the year ahead. Many of the epics, plays, and dialogues that you will read have retellings of these stories. It will be so helpful for you to say to yourself, "I know that story!" when you come across it later in the school year. You will also read some selections from Miss Hamilton's *The Greek Way*.

The other component in your summer reading this year is book about reading, While I am sure that you know how to read by now, much of the instruction given in Core D Western Thought and Composition and Literature is geared toward teaching you how to be a more effective reader. *Reading Between the Lines* will begin to add some tools to your toolbox. God chose to reveal Himself to us with the written Word in Scripture. Therefore, if we are going to be faithful followers of Christ, one of the skills that we must develop is a greater ability to understand and apply the written word.

Your assignment is as follows:

Reading:

1. Read *Mythology* in its entirety.
2. Read *The Greek Way*, chapters 1-4, 6-7, 11-17.
3. Read *Reading Between the Lines*, p. xviii-116.

Writing:

1. Choose one of the myths from *Mythology*. Make sure it has a tragic element (just about all of them do).
2. Pay special attention to what Miss Hamilton says about tragedy in *The Greek Way*, ch. 11 and Dr. Veith says in *Reading Between the Lines*, p. 101-116.
3. Write a one to two page essay in which you:
 - a. Write one paragraph succinctly describing what "tragedy" is.
 - b. Write one-two paragraphs summarizing the story you chose.
 - c. Write one paragraph that tells why this story is tragic and who the tragic hero is.

This is to be typed, double-spaced, and turned in on the first day of class.

Please contact me with any questions.

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