

9TH GRADE PRE-AP EAGLE ENGLISH SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Due: First day of School at Freshman Campus, 2010

MYTHOLOGY BY EDITH HAMILTON (Warner Books Edition: Black cover/kneeling warrior) Note that this book is not a novel, or story. It is an explanation and a re-telling of the myths and stories from the Greek civilization, and an additional section on mythologies from other early civilizations of the world.

A dialectical (double-entry) reader's response journal, bound in a notebook or folder and titled "Mythology Reader's Journal" is due the first day of class. It should contain **24 full entries**, one for each chapter assigned, plus the Introduction. Include only one journal entry for each page of your journal. Illustrations are not required. Typing your journal is not required but is encouraged. If you do not type your journal, neat, legible handwriting is essential. Number your entries and your pages, clearly identifying each chapter. **NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR SUMMARIZING OR PARAPHRASING A CHOSEN PASSAGE.** Do not begin a response with the words "I think this means," or "To me, this means," or "This passage is trying to say...." These openings are a sure sign that you are paraphrasing or summarizing and that you have not read the entire chapter nor understood it.

Sample Entry: (Taken from a journal of a previous Freshman Campus student)

Chapter One

Quotation

"Why it happened, or when, we have no idea at all. We know only that in the earliest Greek poets, a new point of view dawned, never dreamed of in the world before them, but never to leave the world after them. With the coming forward of Greece, mankind became the center of the universe, the most important thing in it. This was a revolution in thought. Human beings had counted for little heretofore. In Greece, man first realized what mankind was." (p. 16)

Response

I wonder how they can know this. What came before? What kind of attitude towards humans did humans have before the earliest Greek poets? Maybe the earlier humans were too busy staying alive to take much notice of their place in the world. This would explain why Hamilton calls it a "revolution in thought." She also says that this new way of looking at humans was "never to leave the world after them." Obviously, her point is that modern cultures today still maintain this view of humanity as the most important thing in the universe. I would like to find out if this is how humanity is still thought of today. Even though today people are always talking about extra-terrestrial aliens, men from mars, and so forth, it would be easy to just assume we are so unique that there are no other creatures like us anywhere, but if so, why do humans have so many stories of other types of creatures from other worlds? On the other hand, other than the animals and fantasy creatures that couldn't live anywhere in the universe, what else do we have to make up stories about other than ourselves? In order to answer all these questions, I would need to read everything.

Respond to a meaningful passage of your choice from each chapter in the book. **Pick your quotations carefully**, so that your comments can be insightful and meaningful.

Insightful comments look past the literal meaning of words into their figurative meaning. It is always a good idea to look for literary devices such as similes, metaphors, and imagery and then interpret them. Otherwise, just be sure you give an insightful comment regarding the quotation. Draw conclusions and make predictions. Do not merely summarize or paraphrase.