

# Senior Summer Reading 2009

(Submitted by Mrs. Lehman)

## AP Literature and Composition Summer Assignment

AP Literature and Composition is designed to strengthen and refine your ability to analyze and write about literature. We hope these assignments will invigorate your love of reading as well as your understanding and appreciation of literature. The pressures of the normal school year do not always permit the kind of leisurely reflection needed to absorb the intellectual richness of great works. In addition to the advantages inherent in pursuing stimulating reading, you will benefit from these assignments in practical ways. First, a full understanding of a great piece of literature requires multiple readings, so you will have a head start on some of the longer works we will pursue next year; you will also experience the joy of discovery that comes only with repeated readings.

### **REQUIRED READING: (due the first day of class!)**

**From *The Old Testament*:** “Genesis”, “Exodus”, and “Job”

**From *The New Testament*:** “The Gospel According to Matthew”

*Mythology* by Edith Hamilton

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

*The Bible*, Greek mythology, and the works of Shakespeare undergird much of Western literature, either as sources of direct quotation, allusion, or stylistic inspiration. We will pursue Shakespeare together, but we would like you to prepare with Biblical and mythological studies this summer. Please read the following books from *The Bible*:

from the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Job

from the New Testament: The Gospel According to Matthew

These books represent a **minimum** acquaintance with important Biblical stories, images, and associations. Obviously, you will benefit from further reading. If you have either the time or the inclination, we suggest Ruth, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, Samuel I & II, and Kings I from the Old Testament and The Gospel According to John and Revelations from the New Testament. If you are unfamiliar with *The Bible*, you may wish to conduct some background investigation.

*The Bible* is an excellent resource—like a dictionary or a collection of Greek mythology—that all students of literature should have, but if you do not own a copy and do not wish to purchase one, go to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) where you will find free downloadable versions of *The Bible*, and you can print only the books you need for this assignment.

Excellent sources are *Introduction to Biblical Literature* by O.B. Davis and *The Bible as Literature: An Introduction* by John B. Gabel and Charles B. Wheeler. A useful source that is no longer in print but generally available in libraries is *The Bible for Students of Literature and Art*, edited by G.B. Harrison.

Also, please purchase (borrow, or dig up) a copy of Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology*. Read the chapters on the major Greek deities, the House of Atreus, the Royal House of Thebes, and the Trojan War. Again, if you have the time or inclination, read all of Edith Hamilton.

\*\*\*To make the most of your source readings, we recommend that you first determine what you **DON'T** know. Please take the "Self Assessment" at the end of this document, and score your own test, with the answer key. Use the results to guide your summer reading (i.e. focus on the areas of greatest need).

ALL AP Lit students will have an objective assessment on *Mythology* and Biblical readings AND a timed writing on *The Poisonwood Bible* during the week of September 8-11<sup>th</sup>.

**REQUIRED ANNOTATION: (books will be collected on the first day of class!)**

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

The ability to read closely and critically is one of the most important skills for success in AP Lit, and annotating will help you develop this skill. Keep a pen or pencil handy; highlight/underline key passages; make notes in the margins. Here are some specific ideas to consider as you read:

1. As the title suggests, Kingsolver makes extensive use of Biblical allusions. Mark the allusions and consider their significance. (1983)
2. Kingsolver's novel is about a family of Southern Baptists on a mission to Congo during the 1950s. As you might imagine, the clash of cultures results in many conflicts. Pay attention to how Kingsolver presents the values of both cultures, particularly those based on gender, race, class, or creed. Consider carefully how the characters respond to the various cultural differences. (1995, 1991, 1987)
3. The key to understanding any work of literature lies in your ability to recognize patterns. As you read deeper into the novel, look for recurring or parallel events/characters/motifs. (1977)

Although *The Poisonwood Bible* is an easy read, Kingsolver's novel reveals depth and complexity to those willing to engage themselves in the author's craft. We expect all AP Lit students to be willing, and annotating the text is a great way to demonstrate your level of engagement. Even the best readers won't find everything, but fully engaged readers will make at least one notation per page. Passages highlighted or underlined represent the minimum level of engagement; to receive full credit for this assignment, your notations should be primarily commentary and analysis.

**Note:** If for some reason you are unable to purchase the book, reader response logs that reflect a close reading of the novel may be substituted. Please use the following format:

- Fold paper in half lengthwise or use two equal sized text boxes.
- On the left side, copy quotations (with proper citations) that express the above ideas.
- On the right side, analyze the quotation as it connects to the allusion, character, motif, etc.
- Again, engaged readers will comment on at least one quotation per page.

**And Just for Fun,** we suggest you pick up a copy of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. This is an excellent introduction to college-level literary analysis.

If you have any questions about the summer reading, please contact any of us for clarification.

Mrs. Harris  
[michelle.harris@fcps.edu](mailto:michelle.harris@fcps.edu)

Mrs. Lehman  
[nicole.lehman@fcps.edu](mailto:nicole.lehman@fcps.edu)

Ms. Lowe  
[allison.lowe@fcps.edu](mailto:allison.lowe@fcps.edu)

Mr. Richardson  
[eric.richardson@fcps.edu](mailto:eric.richardson@fcps.edu)

**AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading  
CLASSICAL/BIBLICAL READING ASSESSMENT**

*Use the following for both Parts I and II.*

**Part I: The Greek Pantheon**

- |              |             |               |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| a. Aphrodite | e. Athena   | i. Hephaestus |
| b. Apollo    | f. Dionysus | j. Hera       |
| c. Ares      | g. Eros     | k. Hermes     |
| d. Artemis   | h. Hades    | l. Poseidon   |

1. \_\_\_\_\_ wife of Zeus
2. \_\_\_\_\_ god of the sea
3. \_\_\_\_\_ god of the underworld
4. \_\_\_\_\_ sprung “full-blown from the head of Zeus”
5. \_\_\_\_\_ god of light and truth, musician, healer, archer
6. \_\_\_\_\_ goddess of love and beauty
7. \_\_\_\_\_ goddess of the moon; huntress
8. \_\_\_\_\_ messenger god
9. \_\_\_\_\_ god of war
10. \_\_\_\_\_ god of fire; the only ugly god; blacksmith
11. \_\_\_\_\_ god of wine
12. \_\_\_\_\_ god of love

**Part II: The Roman Pantheon**

- |                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 13. _____ Apollo  | 17. _____ Juno    | 21. _____ Neptune |
| 14. _____ Bacchus | 18. _____ Mars    | 22. _____ Pluto   |
| 15. _____ Cupid   | 19. _____ Mercury | 23. _____ Venus   |
| 16. _____ Diana   | 20. _____ Minerva | 24. _____ Vulcan  |

**Use the following for Part III**

- a. Achilles
- b. Adonis
- c. Aeneas
- d. Agamemnon
- e. Ajax
- f. Antigone
- g. Atlas
- h. Atreus
- i. Calypso
- j. Cassandra
- k. Circe
- l. Clytemnestra
- m. Cronus
- n. Cyclops
- o. Daedalus
- p. Delphi
- q. Demeter
- r. Furies
- s. Golden Fleece
- t. Hector
- u. Hecuba
- v. Helen
- w. Hercules
- x. Icarus
- y. Ilium
- z. Iphigenia
- aa. Jason
- bb. Jocasta
- cc. Laius
- dd. Medea
- ee. Menelaus
- ff. Minos
- gg. Minotaur
- hh. Odysseus
- ii. Oedipus
- jj. Orestes
- kk. Pandora
- ll. Paris
- mm. Pelops
- nn. Penelope
- oo. Persephone
- pp. Priam
- qq. Prometheus
- rr. Remus and Romulus
- ss. Sisyphus
- tt. Sphinx
- uu. Teiresias
- vv. Telemachus
- ww. Thebes
- xx. Theseus
- yy. Titans
- zz. Troy

### Part III: Great Myths of Greece and Rome

(25) \_\_\_\_\_ was a great king who led the Achaeans against Troy. He was killed by his wife, (26) \_\_\_\_\_, to avenge the sacrifice of his daughter Iphigenia. (27) \_\_\_\_\_, Iphigenia's brother, then killed his mother to avenge his father.

(28) \_\_\_\_\_ killed the fearsome (29) \_\_\_\_\_ and escaped the Labyrinth, which was designed by (30) \_\_\_\_\_. King Minos of Crete, enraged by the apparent betrayal, imprisoned the great architect and his son, (31) \_\_\_\_\_. The two escaped by flying out of the Labyrinth with wings of wax.

(32) \_\_\_\_\_, Goddess of the Corn, lost her daughter, (33) \_\_\_\_\_, to the lord of the Underworld.

(34) \_\_\_\_\_ pursued the Golden Fleece; he was aided by (35) \_\_\_\_\_, whom he later married.

The Titans were the original rulers of the world. Their king was (36) \_\_\_\_\_, who was defeated by his son, Zeus. Other important Titans were (37) \_\_\_\_\_, who "bore the world on his shoulders"; and (38) \_\_\_\_\_, who is considered the "savior of mankind."

(39) \_\_\_\_\_ was married to (40) \_\_\_\_\_ with the "faced that launched a thousand ships." She was taken to Troy by (41) \_\_\_\_\_, which instigated the Trojan War.

Troy was ruled by (42) \_\_\_\_\_ and his queen, (43) \_\_\_\_\_. Their son, (44) \_\_\_\_\_ was the Trojan's greatest hero, but he was killed by (45) \_\_\_\_\_, the great Greek warrior with a vulnerable heel. After the defeat of Troy, (46) \_\_\_\_\_ escaped the burning city; his descendants, (47) \_\_\_\_\_, eventually founded Rome.

(48) \_\_\_\_\_ became king of Thebes by answering the riddle of the (49) \_\_\_\_\_. He unwittingly killed his father, (50) \_\_\_\_\_, and married his mother, (51) \_\_\_\_\_.

Everybody knew (52) \_\_\_\_\_ always spoke the truth, but nobody believed her.

Hope was the only thing left in (53) \_\_\_\_\_ box.

Guided by the blind seer, (54) \_\_\_\_\_, (55) \_\_\_\_\_ returned to his wife, (56) \_\_\_\_\_, after 20 years. He blinded the (57) \_\_\_\_\_ to escape, saved his men from the sorceress (58) \_\_\_\_\_, and gave up immortality offered by (59) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Use the following for Part IV**

- a. Abel
- b. Abraham
- c. Absalom
- d. Adam
- e. Apostle
- f. Babylon
- g. Bathsheba
- h. Cain
- i. Calvary
- j. Canaan
- k. Christ
- l. Daniel
- m. David
- n. Diaspora
- o. Disciple
- p. Eden
- q. Egypt
- r. Exodus
- s. Genesis
- t. Gethsemane
- u. Goliath
- v. Gospels
- w. Hebrew
- x. Herod
- y. Isaac
- z. Isaiah
- aa. Israel
- bb. Jacob
- cc. Jezebel
- dd. Job
- ee. John the Baptist
- ff. Jonah
- gg. Joseph
- hh. Judas Iscariot
- ii. Lot
- jj. Luke
- kk. Mary Magdalene
- ll. Moses
- mm. Nebuchadnezzar
- nn. Noah
- oo. Palestine
- pp. Passover
- qq. Paul
- rr. Peter
- ss. Pharisees
- tt. Pilate
- uu. Saul
- vv. Seth
- ww. Solomon
- xx. Stephen
- yy. Torah
- zz. Yahweh

**Part IV: *The Bible***

60. \_\_\_\_\_ betrayed Jesus
61. \_\_\_\_\_ tiller of the land; slew his brother
62. \_\_\_\_\_ David's successor; built the great Temple of Jerusalem
63. \_\_\_\_\_ "the rock"; one of the original followers of Jesus; missionary to the Jews
64. \_\_\_\_\_ founder of the nation of Israel
65. \_\_\_\_\_ former prostitute who followed Jesus and witnessed his resurrection
66. \_\_\_\_\_ tells of the Hebrews' escape from Egypt
67. \_\_\_\_\_ maintains his faith in God throughout terrible loss and suffering
68. \_\_\_\_\_ David's beloved; mother of Solomon
69. \_\_\_\_\_ originally opposed to Christianity, he became a great missionary
70. \_\_\_\_\_ the "promised land"
71. \_\_\_\_\_ a man of the wilderness, urged the people of Israel to repent
72. \_\_\_\_\_ governor of Judea; ordered Jesus' execution
73. \_\_\_\_\_ the great Philistine warrior; slain with a stone
74. \_\_\_\_\_ any of the original 12 followers of Jesus
75. \_\_\_\_\_ chosen by God to lead his people out of captivity
76. \_\_\_\_\_ Adam and Eve's third son
77. \_\_\_\_\_ Golgotha; site of Jesus' crucifixion
78. \_\_\_\_\_ given the name "Israel" by God
79. \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
80. \_\_\_\_\_ survived the lion's den
81. \_\_\_\_\_ fled before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Classical/Biblical Self-  
Assessment Answer Key

Part I

1. j
2. l
3. h
4. e
5. b
6. a
7. d
8. k
9. c
10. i
11. f
12. g

Part II

13. b
14. f
15. g
16. d
17. j
18. c
19. k
20. e
21. l
22. h
23. a
24. i

Part III

25. d
26. l
27. jj
28. xx
29. gg
30. o

31. x
32. q
33. oo
34. aa
35. dd
36. m
37. g
38. qq
39. ee
40. v
41. ll
42. pp
43. u
44. t
45. a
46. c
47. rr
48. ii
49. tt
50. cc
51. bb
52. j
53. kk
54. uu
55. hh
56. oo
57. n
58. k
59. i

Part IV

60. hh
61. h
62. ww
63. rr
64. b
65. kk
66. r
67. dd
68. g
69. uu
70. j
71. ee

72. tt
73. u
74. e
75. ll
76. vv
77. i
78. bb
79. v
80. l
81. ii

If you do not recognize  
some of the names in the  
answer lists for Parts III  
and IV, please look  
them up and read  
accordingly