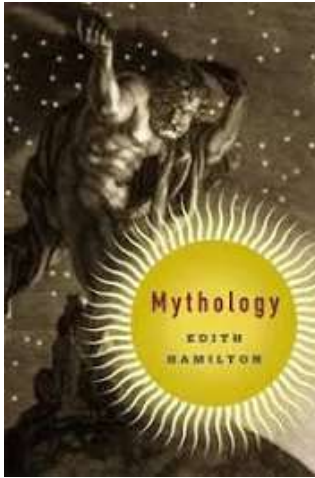


# 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUMMER READING



Edith Hamilton's classic retelling of all the primary Greek myths serves as a great introduction to the Greek world that is the backdrop to the freshman literature sequence. Students will learn the Greek origin myth and several memorable cautionary tales. Also, these short stories introduce the Greek gods as well as all the major Greek heroes, such as Hercules, Pericles, Theseus, and Jason. This is a must-read for students to prepare for the Iliad, Odyssey, Aeneid and Greek dramas covered in the freshman literature curriculum. **\*\*Note: Read Parts I-III of the Hamilton book only. Reading further actually begins to preclude the subject matter of the Iliad and Odyssey which we read during the year.\*\***

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## STUDY GUIDE

### PART I

1. List the twelve Olympian Gods (Greek and Roman names) and give a brief description of their role, character, and domain.
2. Who was Persephone and what happened to her? What happened on earth because of it?
3. How did the Titan Cronus come to power in the universe?
4. Who was Cronus' queen?
5. Why did Cronus swallow his children?
6. Who helped Zeus in his battle against Cronus?
7. Describe Typhon.
8. What was in Pandora's box?
9. What happened to Io?
10. What happened to Narcissus?

### PART II

11. Why does Venus hate Psyche so much?
12. Why does she eventually consent to the marriage of Cupid and Psyche?
13. How do Pyramus and Thisbe die?
14. What goes wrong with Orpheus' rescue attempt?
15. How are Phrixus and Helle saved from human sacrifice?
16. Why does Jason go on the quest for the Golden Fleece?
17. How does the company lose Hercules?
18. How is it that Medea falls in love with Jason?
19. List three good things that Medea does for Jason.
20. List three evil things that Medea does.

21. What does Phaethon ask of the Sun?

22. What does Bellerophon desire?

23. What is the mistake of Icarus?

### **PART III**

24. Why does Perseus have to get the Gorgon's head?

25. How does Perseus get the witches to tell him where to find Medusa?

26. How does Perseus strike Medusa with a sword without being turned to stone?

27. What three gifts does Perseus receive from the Hyperboreans?

28. How is the prophecy of Acrisius being killed by his grandson fulfilled?

29. Describe the three bandits that Theseus deals with and how he does so.

30. Why did King Minos demand youths from Athens every nine years?

31. What became of those youths?

32. What does Theseus use to find his way out of the Labyrinth?

33. If Theseus was successful, why does his father commit suicide?

34. How did Hercules show, even as a child, that he was brave and strong?

35. What did Hercules do that almost lead him to suicide?

36. List and briefly describe the twelve labors of Hercules.