

KHS AP Literature and Composition (English 12 AP) Summer Reading Assignment 2011-12

It is a requirement for this class that you read the following books prior to the start of school on **Monday, 8 August 2011**. You should be prepared to be assessed on the selected works in a variety of formats, including but not limited to multiple-choice tests, essay, and projects. These assessments will take place during the first month of school.

Failure to complete these assignments will have a significant negative impact on your first semester grade.

Required Reading:

- ***Antigone*** by Sophocles **OR** ***Oedipus Rex*** by Sophocles (Drama)
- ***The Inferno*** (part of ***The Divine Comedy***) by Dante Alighieri (Poetry)
- ***The Handmaid's Tale*** by Margaret Atwood (Prose)

In addition to the required reading, you are also required to complete an **Allusion Reading Journal**.

Allusion; (noun) *an implied or indirect reference especially in literature; also: the use of such references.*

Nearly all novels, plays, and poems read in AP Literature contain multiple Biblical and mythological allusions. Authors depend on readers' knowledge of these references in order to further the understanding of their messages. In addition, the AP test frequently expects students to find these allusions in the prose and poetry excerpts provided both on the multiple choice portion of the exam and within the essay prompts. In studying these allusions over the summer, you will be increasing your own background knowledge.

A word about the *Bible*: Because the literature of Western culture draws so commonly on knowledge of the *Bible* and because so many Americans in the 21st Century lack that background knowledge, we have added selections from the *Bible* to the summer reading. The stories are those frequently alluded to in literature and should become part of your cultural knowledge since they show up in such diverse literature as Blake's "Songs of Innocence and Experience," Morrison's *Beloved*, and Matt Groening's *The Simpsons*.

- **Realize that you should NOT read these selections in terms of faith but rather in terms of literature.**

Selections from the *Bible* can be found at <http://bartleby.com/108/> if you do not have your own text. We would prefer that you read from a King James Version because it is considered highly poetic.

Mythological Allusions

Use an introductory text such as Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* or Bulfinch's *Mythology: The Age of Fable or Stories of Gods and Heroes* by Thomas Bulfinch:

<http://www.greekmythology.com/Books/Bulfinch/bulfinch.html>.

Achilles	Odysseus	Aphrodite	Jason and the Golden Fleece
Antigone	The Trojan Horse	Agamemnon	Oedipus
Daedalus and Icarus	Persephone	Cupid and Psyche	Perseus
Eurydice and Orpheus	Prometheus	Echo and Narcissus	River Styx
Hercules	The Gods of Olympus	Hector	Theseus

Fairy Tales, Nursery Rhymes and Fables

The following can be found at: <http://ivyjoy.com/fables/>

Goldilocks	Snow White	The Tortoise and the Hare
The Princess and the Pea	Little Boy Blue	Little Miss Muffet
Rapunzel	Cinderella	The Emperor's New Clothes

Beauty and the Beast	Baa Baa Black Sheep	Thumbelina
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Biblical Allusions

The King James Version of *The Holy Bible* can be found online: <http://www.bartleby.com/108/> if you do not have your own text. We would prefer that you read from a King James Version because it is considered highly poetic.

The Old Testament	The New Testament
The Creation- Genesis 1	The Nativity- Matthew 1; Luke 2
"The Fall"- Genesis 3	Lazarus- John 11:1-12:11
Cain and Abel- Genesis 4-6	The Last Supper- Mark 14; John 13
"The Flood"- Genesis 6	Judas and the Betrayal- Matthew 25-26
Abraham and Isaac- Genesis 22	The Denial- Matthew 26
Moses. The Plagues, Exodus, 10 Commandments- Exodus 1-4; 20	The Crucifixion- Matthew 27
Job Chapters 1-2	The Resurrection- Luke 24; John 20-21
The Book of Ruth	The Prodigal Son- Luke 15:11-32
David and Goliath- I Samuel 17	The Good Samaritan- Luke 10:25-37

Allusion Reading Journal

Due Friday, 19 August 2011

Please complete this assignment in a composition book. No typed versions will be accepted.

Directions:

Following the example below, develop an index in which you enter the following information on a page in your journal for each mythical, biblical, and fairy tale allusion listed here:

- Name of the story and source (biblical, Greek, Roman, etc)
- A summary of the story that captures the main elements
- A 50-word commentary on the sources of conflict (plot) and their significance
 - Examples of where you might encounter this allusion (reading, travels, vocabulary, plot lines, etc.)
- An illustrated depiction of the allusion demonstrating its possible meaning

You will be adding to this journal throughout the year.

Example:

The Prodigal Son	Biblical Allusion	Source: Luke 15:11-32
<p>In this story, one of the most well-known parables shared by Jesus, a man has two sons to whom he has promised an inheritance. One of the sons asks for his inheritance while the father is still alive. He takes his money and spends it quite foolishly. Money spent, he ends up so poor that he must work in a pig yard, where he sees that the pigs have even more than he. He decides to return to his father's home to beg forgiveness and to ask that his father hire him to work in the fields. His father is overjoyed to see the son he thought he had lost. In celebration of his return, the father offers him new robes, an important ring, and orders a fattened calf killed for celebration. The "good brother" is incensed that the brother who so recklessly squandered his fortune should be welcomed and forgiven. But the father explains the value of that return of that which was thought lost.</p> <p>Commentary: This parable has been explored many times in literature, art, and song, especially the concept of celebrating the homecoming of someone who has waywardly wandered from the home or the community. One example is in <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> when Tom Joad returns home after he is released from prison.</p>		

Questions?

Please feel free to contact us!

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