



Reading Group: Mythology

Summer 2019



GENERAL INFORMATION

Class Dates: M/W in July (8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31)

Class Times: 10-11am EST

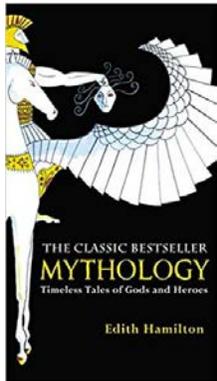
Instructor: Adam Lockridge

E-mail: alockridge@scholeacademy.com

Suggested Level: Middle or Upper School (7th-12th)

COURSE TEXT: *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, by Edith Hamilton

DESCRIPTION



Students of ancient literature are confronted with an unfamiliar world populated by a dazzling variety of gods and goddesses, all of whom display both human and divine characteristics. Keeping track of the names, actions, and attributes of each of these characters can be challenging, but it is immensely useful to have such background knowledge when reading classics like Homer or Sophocles.

Even more perplexing for the modern student is the world in which these stories developed. Did ancient people really believe in such gods? How did these fictional characters come to have such a firm grip on their imaginations? What are myths, and why do cultures have them?

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* offers an introduction to the main cast of characters from ancient classics, and it will invite students to consider the larger cultural and social context in which these stories emerged. The Mythology book club is ideal for those who have taken or are preparing to take Ancient History or Literature (Middle or Upper School).

OUTLINE

PRIOR TO START: INTRODUCTION, CH. 1 & 2

WEEK 1: PART 1, THE GODS AND CREATION

WEEK 2: PART 2, LOVE AND ADVENTURE

WEEK 3: PART 3, HEROES BEFORE TROY*

WEEK 4: PART 5, THE GREAT FAMILIES

*We will skip Part 4 which summarizes Homer and Virgil's tales of the Trojan War. This story will be covered in detail during the Scholé Academy Ancient History and Literature courses, so the reading group will focus on other lesser-known tales.

Technology

Live meetings will take place using a video conferencing app called **Zoom** (www.zoom.us). Please download the free app from their website. Students will need access to a webcam, microphone, and a strong internet connection. All other course communication will happen on **Schoology** (www.schoology.com), a user-friendly learning management system. Students will receive a registration link the week before the beginning of the class.

Expectations

Summer Reading Groups are less formal than a yearlong course, but students are still expected to participate and come to our meetings prepared for the discussion. Other short assignments and optional readings may be given (less than 20 minutes additional prep), but the bulk of the expectation will be to simply read the book.

The reading group is open to both Middle and Upper School students; I will offer an optional abridged reading schedule for the younger students. Plan on a couple hours of reading per week (20-30 minutes per day) for five weeks. Students may be asked to report on their reading at the beginning of the session. The usual standards of academic integrity apply (see Scholé Academy Student Handbook).

About the Teacher

Adam lives in rural Kansas where he and his wife homeschool their three children. Adam studied Philosophy at the University of Kansas and received his MA in Philosophy from the University of Memphis. As a philosophy student, Adam was most interested in the history of philosophy. Over the past ten years, Adam has taught a variety of subjects in 5th-12th grades, mostly in the humanities. His study of philosophy taught him the joy of carefully reading old books and gave him a Socratic paradigm for in-class discussion—two essential components of his teaching style.

While teaching is one of Adam's favorite activities, he has a variety of interests which help remind him that, although "the unexamined life is not worth living," it is also true that the "unlived life is not worth examining." Thus, he tries to pull his nose out of a book (or away from the computer) long enough to take his wife to a concert, read to his children, go on a walk with his dog Buck, mow the churchyard, fix something that is broken, or otherwise hold back the forces of primordial Chaos.

