**APELAIV: Summer Reading 2015**

As we began looking at summer reading for 2015, we felt that there was a definite need to address a deficit in many students’ literary background. Although some of our students do recognize allusions, they do not know the stories and myths that accompany them. **AP Literature and Composition** students are expected to know basic myths and Bible stories--the cornerstones of Western Literature. If they have not been exposed to Greek and Roman myths, as well as stories of the Bible, they are somewhat crippled in poetry, the classics and even modern works. From the metaphysical poets to the moderns, biblical and mythological allusions are pervasive. Students who have not been exposed to allusions are at a disadvantage in unlocking the meaning of a poem from 14th century *Dante’s Inferno* by Dante to 20th century W.B. Yeat’s “Second Coming”. Our summer reading will include excerpts from Edith Hamilton’s ***Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes***, as well as several short books from The Old and New Testament of The Bible, and both novels from the list below.

**Part One**

The purpose of this assignment is to simply acquaint you with the stories most alluded to in Western Literature. If you object to reading the primary source, you can research the myths and Bible stories online using the titles we have given for each story. Every one of these stories can be found on Wikipedia. We are looking for exposure to these stories rather than a deep analytical reading. On the earliest allowable date, you will take a test. Facts, not inferences, should be your primary concern. We have provided a Quizlet practice that gives you a few sample questions.

***The Quizlet is called: APELAIV-Summer Reading Assignment-Brew/Buch/Mac-Allusions Practice Quiz***

The Hebrew Bible and Christian New Testament

*Any translation is fine, but the King James or New King James versions are the most literary. If, on the other hand, you are the most interested in easily understood language, the NIV or RSV is both approachable.*

**Old Testament**

**Genesis**

*The Creation Story*

*Adam and Eve*

*Cain and Abel*

*Noah and The Flood*

*Lot and his Wife*

*Abraham’s Family*

*Hagar and Sarah*

*Isaac and Rebecca*

*Jacob and Esau*

*Jacob’s Family*

*Joseph and his brothers*

**Exodus**

Moses:

*His Birth*

 *Moses and the Bull Rushes*

 *Moses and the Burning Bush*

 *Let my People Go*

*The 10 Plagues*

*Passover*

 *Red Sea*

 *The 10 Commandments*

 *The Ark of the Covenant*

 *The Golden Calf*

**Job**

*The Story of Job*

**New Testament**

**Matthew**

*The Birth of Christ*

*John the Baptist*

*The Disciples*

*The Miracles*

*The Parables*

 *The Death of Christ*

 *The Resurrection*

*AND*, Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology*

**Introduction to Classical Mythology**

*The Mythology of the Greeks*

*The Greek and Roman Writers of Mythology*

 **The Gods, the Creation and the Earliest Heroes**

*The Gods*

*The Two Great Gods of Earth*

*How the World and Man Kind Were Created*

*The Earliest Heroes*

**Stories of Love and Adventure**

*Cupid and Psyche*

*Eight Brief Tales of Lovers*

*The Quest of the Golden Fleece*

*Four Great Adventures*

**Part Two**

*Closely read both novels listed below for meaning. You will need to analyze the text so text-coding or annotating is recommended.*

***American Literature:***

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

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