

English 1, St. Xavier High School

Summer Reading Mythology Study Guide

The Why

In the course of the next four years, much of the literature you read will contain allusions to Greek mythology. The stories of King Midas (*Merchant of Venice*), Jason and the Argonauts (*Merchant of Venice*), and Prometheus (*Frankenstein*) all figure prominently in works you will read at St. X. You may have already come across allusions to Eros and Psyche in *Ender's Game*. Knowing these allusions will help you to have a much deeper understanding of and appreciation for the works that you read. In addition, the English language contains a considerable number of words and phrases that were born in mythology (martial, panacea, euphemism, narcissistic). As a result, the English Department at St. Xavier feels that freshmen students will benefit from having a foundation in Greek mythology before they even enter the building.

The What

To encourage dedication to learning these stories, students can expect an assessment on the content contained in *Heroes, Gods and Monster of the Greek Myths* by Bernard Evslin within the first week of school. Format will vary by teacher.

The How

You'll notice that Evslin's book is broken up into four sections: THE GODS, NATURE MYTHS, DEMIGODS, and FABLES. To assist students in learning this content, the freshmen learning team at St. Xavier has created a study guide so that students can get a sense of what to study. We have organized the study guide into the same groupings as the ones contained in the book. Please be diligent in your study of the myths. This task will be one of your first opportunities to demonstrate your preparedness for high school.

Note: Because there are only two fables, they have been grouped with the DEMIGODS section.

THE GODS

Uranus	Cronus
Rhea	Pan
Cyclopes	Briareus
Parthenos	Pallas
Arachne	“gray-eyed”—a common description for Athena
Athens	Thetis
Nereid	Naiad
Amphitrite	Horse
Styx	Charon
Cerberus	Tartarus
Erebus	Minos
Rhadamanthys	Aecus
Sisyphus	Tantalus
Elysian Fields	Fields of Asphodel
Isles of the Blest	Erinyes/Furies/”Eumenides”

Lethe	Dis
Cereal	Volcano
Leto	Python
Delos	Callisto
“nuda genu”	Selene
Hecate	Marsyas
Oracle at Delphi	Lyre
Satyr	Corybantes (Thalia)
Aristeus (Cyrene)	Amphissus (Dryope)
Asclepius (Coronis)	Ischys
Crow	Daphne
Maia	“aphros”
Panic	Titanic
Olympian	Demigod
arachnid	

NATURE MYTHS

Prometheus	Caucasus
Hercules	Pandora
Epimetheus	Pandora's box
Foreboding	Phaeton
Epaphus	Heliads
Orpheus	Apollo
Calliope	Eurydice
Aristeus	Avernus
Charon	Cerberus
Narcissus	Echo
Aphrodite	Hera
Zeus	Eros
Psyche	Zephyr
Arion	Poseidon
Periander	Dithyramb

DEMIGODS AND FABLES

Perseus	King Acrisius
Danae	Dictys
Polydectes	Medusa
Gorgons	Talaria
Gray Sisters	3 Nymphs of West
Atlas	Golden Tree
Chrysaor	Pegasus
Cepheus	Cassiopeia
Andromeda	Daedalus
Talos	Crete
King Minos	Queen Pasiphae
Ariadne	Phaedra
Minotaur	Labyrinth
Icarus	Atalanta
Meleager	Queen Althaea
Atropos	Hippomenes
Theseus	Corynetes
Sciron	Pityocampes
Procrustes	King Aegeus
Galatea	Pallas
Scylla	Charybdis
Midas	Pygmalion