

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rising Seniors Enrolled in AP English IV

FROM: E. Marsh & C. Peters, English Department, GMHS

DATE: May 22, 2017

RE: SUMMER READING

If you registered for AP English IV, then you are strongly encouraged to complete the summer reading assignment before the first day of classes. This reading assignment is designed to strengthen your literary analysis and writing skills, providing you with a strong foundation at the start of the course. To be clear, this assignment is not required—its purpose is to give you an **edge** throughout the course. The summer reading assignment for AP English IV is listed below:

1. **THE BIBLE**: Many of the works you will encounter in this course contain allusions to Biblical stories. Lots of students have never heard of some of these stories before, and that's completely okay! This is not a study of religion but more or less an investigation—you are looking into British writers' sources. Become acquainted with the most common of Biblical stories to deepen your appreciation and comprehension of the literature you will tackle in this course by reading the excerpts below. Of course, you may read any Bible translation you like, but keep in mind that the authors we will study used the King James version. You can find all of the stories below online!

The Creation	Genesis 1
The Fall	Genesis 3
The Flood	Genesis 6
The Mark of Cain	Genesis 4-6
The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11: 1-9
Sodom and Gomorrah	Genesis 18
Lot and his wife	Genesis 19
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20: 1-17
David and Goliath I	Samuel 17
The Nativity	Matthew 1, Luke 2
The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7:27, Luke 6:17-49
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15: 11-32
Lazarus	John 11:1-12
The Last Supper	Mark 14, John 13
The Garden of Gethsemane	Matthew 26
The Betrayal	Matthew 25, 26
The Denial	Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 18
30 pieces of silver	Matthew 26:33, Mark 15:22, John 19:17
The Crucifixion	Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19
The Resurrection	Luke 24, John 20, 21
The Holy Spirit	Acts 1, 2
Job	
Ruth	
Kings	

2. **GREEK MYTHOLOGY:** A great deal of what we will read also includes allusions to Greek and Roman mythology, so please familiarize yourself with the names and stories listed below. You may find these myths online or check out a copy of Edith Hamilton's *Greek Mythology* from your local public library.

Don't panic when you see this list! You will remember most of the myths from middle school, and even if you need to review all of them, keep in mind that they are very brief.

- Pandora's Box
- Pygmalion and Galatea
- Daphne and the Laurel Wreath
- Echo and Narcissus
- Jason and the Golden Fleece
- Cupid and Psyche
- Midas and the Golden Touch
- Arachne and Athena
- Orpheus and Eurydice
- Paris and the Golden Apple
- Perseus and Medusa
- Leda and the Swan
- Twelve Labors of Hercules
- Odysseus and the following: *Trojan Horse; Cyclops; Sirens; Scylla and Charybdis; The Suitors; Penelope*
- Phaeton and the Sun Chariot
- Daedalus and Icarus
- Minotaur and the Labyrinth
- Helen of Troy
- Dido
- Achilles
- Adonis
- Aphrodite
- Athena
- Atlas
- Dionysus
- Cassandra
- Cerberus
- Charon
- Oracle at Delphi
- Diogenes
- Helen of Troy
- Medusa
- Hera
- Zeus
- Artemis/Diana

3. **FREE CHOICE NOVEL OR PLAY:** On the AP exam, you'll refer to a novel or play of your choice to respond to an open-ended essay question. It's a great idea to expand your literary repertoire in preparation for this task! Scan the QR Code to see a list of the plays and novels referred to most often on the AP Literature open-ended response question, and then choose a novel or play you haven't read before from this list. ***Please ask your parent or guardian for permission before diving into any of these texts.*** You may locate titles online, in bookstores, or at your local public library.



ONE NOTE: *If you find that you aren't really interested in any of the works on this list, then you may need to question why you are taking this course!*

Questions? Please contact us at emarsh@wcpss.net or cpeters@wcpss.net. Have a great summer, and enjoy your reading! I look forward to meeting you in the fall.