

English 12AP Summer Reading Assignment

(Revised 9/19)

All seniors entering English 12 AP in the fall must read Edith Hamilton's *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, which is a compilation of myths drawn from classical literature. Paperback editions are available at local bookstores and libraries as well as through on-line merchants. E-texts can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

As you read, keep a reading log, take notes, or annotate in a way that will help you to remember the characters and storylines of each myth.

After you read, choose one poem from the list below and write a 500-word explication discussing how the allusion in the poem supports the poet's aim.

Consider the following features of allusion:

1. An allusion is a reference to another work (e.g., mythological, classical, biblical, literary, or historical).
2. An extended allusion is more than an isolated reference but calls to the reader's mind the entire context of its source in order to comment on the poet's subject.
3. The reference (classical, biblical, or mythological, for example) is not itself the *subject* of the work in which it appears. For example, it would not be an allusion if a poem reviews, retells, or revises a myth or part of a myth, as do Pope in "Argus," Byron in "Prometheus," Keats in "Ode to Psyche," Tennyson in "Ulysses," Swinburne in "The Garden of Proserpine," Yeats in "The Fascination with What's Difficult," and Parker in "Penelope," and Blake in "Why Was Cupid a Boy?"

You will be graded on the following:

1. Your understanding of the poem and the function of the allusion in that poem
2. Your understanding of how the poet makes use of specific aspects of the original myth, including what may not be explicit in the poem
3. The extent to which you avoid summary in favor of analysis
4. The clarity of your argument—both at the sentence and paragraph levels
5. Your precise use of language
6. Your citation (according to MLA-8 format) of your primary source (the poem) and of outside sources—should you choose to consult them

On the first day of school in September, you must submit to your teacher a hardcopy/printout of your essay (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins) and upload to Turnitin a digital version. Include a copy of the poem you selected.

Choose one poem only from the following list:

1. Jorge Luis Borges, "The Labyrinth" (transl. from the Spanish by John Updike)
2. George Gordon, Lord Byron, "Written after Swimming from Sestos to Abydos (9 May 1810)"
3. Countee Cullen, "Yet Do I Marvel"
4. Henry Constable, *Diana*, Sonnet 10, "Prometheus, for stealing living fire"
5. Samuel Daniel, *Delia*, Sonnet 5, "Whilst youth and error led my wandering mind"
6. Samuel Daniel, *Delia*, Sonnet 13, "Behold what hap Pygmalion had to frame"
7. Samuel Daniel, *Delia*, Sonnet 34, "Why dost thou, Delia, credit so thy glass"
8. Samuel Daniel, *Delia*, Sonnet 43, "Most fair and lovely maid, look from the shore"
9. Samuel Daniel, *Delia*, Sonnet 44, "Read in my face a volume of despairs"
10. Samuel Daniel, Rejected Sonnet 12, "The tablet of my heavy fortunes here"

11. Michael Drayton, *Amours*, Sonnet 22, “My hart, imprisoned in a hopeless ile”
12. Michael Drayton, *Idea*, Sonnet 14, “If he, from heaven that filched that living fire”
13. Michael Drayton, “To His Coy Love”
14. Ben Jonson, “To Mary Lady Wroth”
15. John Keats, “Ode on Melancholy”
16. Thomas Lodge, *Phyllis*, Sonnet 3, “In fancy’s world an Atlas have I been”
17. Thomas Lodge, *Phyllis*, Sonnet 17, “Ah fleeting weal, ah sly deluding sleep”
18. Thomas Lodge, *Phyllis*, Sonnet 22, “Fair art thou, Phillis, ay, so fair, sweet maid”
19. Thomas Lodge, *Phyllis*, Sonnet 34, “I would in rich and golden-coloured rain”
20. Edgar Allan Poe, “Serenade”
21. Edgar Allan Poe, “Ulalume”
22. Archibald MacLeish, “Psyche with the Candle”
23. Edna St. Vincent Millay, “An Ancient Gesture”
24. John Milton, Sonnet 12, “I did but prompt the age to quit their clogs”
25. John Milton, Sonnet 13, “Harry, whose tuneful and well measur’d Song”
26. John Milton, Sonnet 23, “Methought I saw my late espoused saint”
27. Friedrich Schiller, “The Ideals” (transl. from the German “Die Ideale”)
28. William Shakespeare, Sonnet 53, “What is your substance, whereof are you made”
29. William Shakespeare, Sonnet 55, “Not marble, nor the gilded monuments”
30. Patrick Shaw-Stewart, “Achilles in the Trenches”

To find these poems online, search, among other sites, [Poetry Foundation](#), [Poem Hunter](#), [poets.org](#), or [Poetry 180](#).

For help with reading a poem, follow [these guidelines](#) courtesy of *The Atlantic*.

For assistance with writing about poetry, consult “[Poetry: Close Reading](#)” and “[Writing about Poetry](#)” from Purdue University’s online writing lab, “[Poetry Explications](#)” from the University of North Carolina’s online writing center, and “[Writing about Poetry](#)” from Hamilton College.

Further reading:

To supplement Hamilton’s book, you may wish to consult *Bulfinch’s Mythology*, which—though longer and more challenging—you will find readily available in a number of editions and online [here](#).

For some thoughts on the importance of understanding allusions, read [this post](#) from *The New York Times* Learning Network and [this review](#) from *The New York Times* Sunday Book Review.

To complete a crossword puzzle on mythology, visit [this page](#) from *The New York Times* Learning Network.

To add poems to your daily reading routine, subscribe to the “feeds” provided by [Poetry Foundation](#), [Poetry 180](#), and [poets.org](#).

To learn more about AP English and Composition, visit the College Board’s [course description](#) and [student course page](#).