



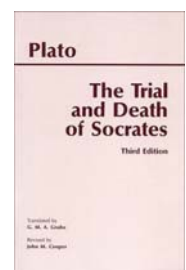
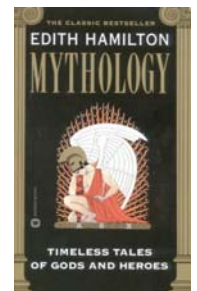
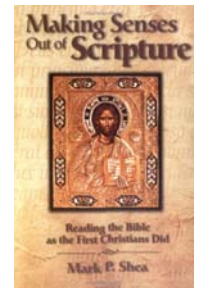
Summer Reading 2009 – for freshmen year at John Paul II

Each summer, students at John Paul II Catholic High School will be expected to read three (3) books as a group. Of course, we hope that this is not the limit of the reading that our students complete over the summer; ideally, they are reading books of interest and for fun on their own. Reading is the only known way to increase your reading, writing, and comprehension skills.

The three books for summer reading will never be assigned casually, or assigned and dismissed. (And very likely, these will change infrequently over the years.) These books have been selected because we feel they will serve our students and classes inside the curriculum of the school year. As such, we will have some focus questions to go along with the reading, to help make sure students understand the material. Further, these are not just for English Language Arts; they are spread across the humanities: English, Theology, and Social Studies.

The books are available through Amazon.com, bn.com, or any major bookseller. Please pay attention to the translation/publisher of the third book.

- a. [*Making Senses Out of Scripture*](#), by Mark Shea [Basilica Press, 1999, ISBN 0-9642610-6-5] The theology text was selected as an introduction to Scripture study and Scripture analysis. (Also, Shea is an engaging writer, and makes for easier reading.) The first half of the book is an overview of the Bible, showing Christ as “the fulfillment of the Scriptures,” both the Old and New Testament. The last section of the book gives four ways to ‘make sense’ of Scripture (literal, allegorical, moral, anagogical), and it is with these four senses that we will be analyzing Scripture passages during much of the school year. The theology teacher, Deacon Gorman, will review this book, but a first read before the class starts will help greatly.
- b. [*Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*](#), by Edith Hamilton [Grand Central Publishing – paperback, 1942, ISBN 0-446-60725-8] This is a classic review of myths, heroes, and stories of ancient Greece and Rome. (There is another larger paperback version of this same book, titled just *Mythology*; either is fine, but this one is cheaper.) Of course, this book will help a student to learn many of the characters and stories from the ancients that make their way into stories, plays, and art throughout history. (Students can skip the last section, on Norse mythology.)
- c. [*The Trial and Death of Socrates*](#), by Plato, translated by G.M.A. Grube and published by Hackett. [Publisher: Hackett Pub Co Inc; 3rd edition (June 2001) ISBN-10: 0-872-20554-1] For this selection, it is important to buy a Grube translation-Hackett Publishing version; there are hundreds of translations and publications of this story, some good, some very poor. (Any of the editions of Grube/Hackett are fine.) This is an introduction to Government class; Socrates in his trial and then death presents questions about the relationship between government and individuals.



Tonight we will upload a summer reading page to our web site with links to booksellers for each of these assignments. Further, we will post reading focus questions. Students are expected to print and complete these as a part of the reading assignments. Realize that each of these books will be covered in some detail during the school year. All will be expected to have read and to have done their best to form an understanding of these books.