

Study Guide for Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*

Finding an opponent's "Achilles' heel", opening a "Pandora's box", having the "Midas touch," making a "Herculean effort"—our language and culture is chock full of words and imagery from the Greek and Roman myths. The planets of our solar system, Mercury, Venus, Mars, etc. are named for the various gods of those myths. And from a literary perspective, the myths have inspired some of the greatest works of Western literature, including the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* of Homer, the great tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, and Virgil's *Aeneid*.

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* provides a vivid introduction into this extraordinarily rich and influential set of tales and stories that has so captivated the Western imagination. Listed below are some of the more memorable figures and places from those myths. As you read through the work, try to write a sentence that briefly captures the most significant aspect of each character or place listed. When we begin class in August, you will be given a test (most likely in matching form, but other forms of questions are possible) based on the list. The test will not require detailed knowledge of any given figure, but rather major characteristics, e.g., that *Hades* is the god of the underworld; that the *Minotaur* is the fearsome half-man, half-bull monster whom Theseus slew; or that *Antigone* is the daughter of Oedipus, who ensured her brother's proper burial even while knowing it meant her own death by execution. Note that there are many more names in *Mythology* than those listed below. Their absence does not mean they are not worth knowing or reading about, only that you will not be required to know them for the test.

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| 1. Titans | 20. Pan |
| 2. Cronus | 21. the Sirens |
| 3. Olympus | 22. the Fates |
| 4. Zeus (Jupiter) | 23. the Delphi Oracle |
| 5. Hera (Juno) | 24. Demeter |
| 6. Poseidon (Neptune) | 25. Persephone |
| 7. Hades (Pluto) | 26. Dionysus/Bacchus |
| 8. Pallas Athena (Minerva) | 27. Pandora |
| 9. Phoebus Apollo | 28. Prometheus |
| 10. Artemis (Diana) | 29. Europa |
| 11. Aphrodite (Venus) | 30. the Cyclops Polyphemus |
| 12. Hermes (Mercury) | 31. Psyche |
| 13. Ares (Mars) | 32. Narcissus |
| 14. Hephaestus (Vulcan) | 33. Adonis |
| 15. Hestia (Vesta) | 34. Pygmalion |
| 16. Eros (Cupid) | 35. Jason |
| 17. the Muses | 36. Argonauts |
| 18. Nemesis | 37. Styx |
| 19. the Furies | 38. Amazons |

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39. the Golden Fleece
40. Scylla and Charybdis
41. Sisyphus
42. Pegasus
43. Chimaera
44. Perseus
45. Medusa
46. Theseus
47. Procrustes
48. Minos
49. Minotaur
50. Labyrinth
51. Aegeus
52. Hercules
53. Hydra
54. Augean Stables
55. Pillars of Hercules
56. Cerberus
57. Atalanta
58. Paris
59. Menelaus
60. Helen
61. Odysseus
62. Achilles
63. Agamemnon
64. Priam
65. Hector
66. Ajax
67. Aeneas
68. Trojan Horse
69. Cassandra
70. Telemachus
71. Penelope
72. Dido
73. the Elysian Fields
74. Clytemnestra
75. Orestes
76. Electra
77. Oedipus
78. Laius
79. Jocasta
80. the Sphinx
81. Antigone
82. Midas