

## Summer Reading Assignment: AP English Literature and Composition

Hello and welcome to AP 12. In order to keep pace with schools east of the Mississippi that begin school a month before we do, it is vital that you complete the summer reading listed below. You will read selections from the Bible and Greek and Roman mythology. If you do not own a Bible, a few are available for checkout in the school library. It is easy to find the myths on the internet, or you could check out a copy of Edith Hamilton's *Greek Mythology* from the public library. When you have finished reading, please complete the questions about the Bible stories and the attached journal questions and bring them to class on the first day of school. We will have a short quiz that day and discuss your journal responses. I look forward to working with you in the coming school year.

### THE BIBLE

Much of the quality literature that we will be reading as well as many pieces that appear on the AP exam frequently contains allusions to common Biblical stories. It is vital that students spend time reading and becoming acquainted with the most common of these stories to deepen their appreciation and comprehension of the literature they read. Students are required to read **all** of the books of **Genesis, Exodus, Matthew, Luke, and Revelation** in the *King James Bible* as well as other selections indicated in the list below. The *King James Version* is required because of its stylistic language and literary merit.

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • 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                    |                                       |

\*\*\*Bible Review Sheet

A word about translations: most literary allusions are to the King James Version of the Bible. You should therefore read as many of the assigned selections as possible in that translation, particularly the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and 1 Corinthians. You may also wish to consult a more modern, easier-to-follow

translation or paraphrased translation, such as the Living Bible. The best approach, especially if you are unfamiliar with the Bible, would be to read both a modern translation for the ease of understanding and the King James Version for the beauty of the language. Avoid children's Bibles, however. The stories are usually too abbreviated and simplified for our purposes.

Take notes in a spiral notebook (a composition book is ideal) on each of these:

1. Review these stories from the Book of Genesis:

Adam, Eve, and the Garden of Eden  
Noah and the Flood  
Cain and Abel  
Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his wife

God's test of Abraham  
Joseph and his brothers  
brothers' treatment of Joseph  
the coat of many colors  
Joseph and Pharaoh  
Joseph and Benjamin

2. Review the story of Moses as told in the Book of Exodus. Include each of the following topics:

the discovery of the baby Moses  
the burning bush  
Moses and the Pharaoh  
the plagues of Egypt

the Passover  
the journey through the Red Sea  
manna from heaven  
the Ten Commandments  
the Ark of the Covenant

3. Relate the story of Ruth. What is the major theme of this story?
4. List the problems that plague Job. What does the Book of Job tell us should be our response to suffering?
5. Characterize the contents of Song of Solomon (also called Song of Songs). Who are the voices speaking? What topics or themes occur here? How is each treated?
6. Retell the story of King Solomon and his wisdom. Give one example of the wisdom of Solomon.
7. Characterize the contents of the Book of Ecclesiastes. Who is the Preacher? Select a short passage that appeals to you, write it down, and be prepared to discuss it.
8. The Book of Matthew tells of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Verses 3-12 of Matthew 5 are called the Beatitudes. Be sure you are thoroughly familiar with all of these. (You may wish to list them in your spiral.) Many writers allude to the other sections of this sermon, in addition to the Beatitudes. Which references in the sermon are already familiar to you? List them.
9. Summarize the story of the Crucifixion. Identify the role played by each of the following:  
Pontius Pilate  
Peter  
Barabbas  
Judas  
Mary Magdalene

## MYTHOLOGY

Since a great deal of what we read includes allusions Greek and Roman mythology, please familiarize yourself with the names and stories listed below.

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