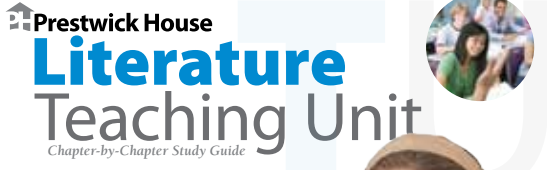




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Sample



Edith Hamilton's
Mythology
by Edith Hamilton

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Edith Hamilton's Mythology

By Edith Hamilton

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Mythology

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, students will be able to

1. recount various theories for the origins of myths.
2. differentiate between classical and the earlier, primitive myths.
3. recognize the chief Olympian gods and goddesses and their functions.
4. recount the Greek version of creation.
5. follow the creation of man, his fall, and the introduction of death into the world, as seen in Greek culture.
6. identify and discuss the lesser Greek and Roman gods and goddesses.
7. comment on two great gods of Earth: Dionysus and Demeter.
8. discuss explanatory myths, such as the tales of Demeter and Persephone.
9. continue this discussion with myths dealing with animals and flowers.
10. recount and comment on the ancient world's most famous pair of lovers, Cupid and Psyche.
11. compare and contrast the Cupid/Psyche myth with other pairs of mythological lovers regarding:
 - the element of trust
 - the acceptance of pain/suffering on behalf of the loved one
 - valuing a person for the intrinsic, not the exterior, beauty.
12. follow various stories of Zeus' love affairs, both with human women and with goddesses.
13. recognize the reasons and need for mythological monsters.
14. examine Jason's quest for the Golden Fleece as part of the heroic tradition.
15. recognize elements of magic in a story and evaluate Perseus' heroic qualities, relating the myth of Perseus to the fairy tale of Cinderella.
16. point out the value of an intellectual, compassionate hero as seen through the story of Theseus.

Mythology

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Choose three heroes of Greek mythology. Discuss the qualities each of these heroes has and how these qualities are shown through the hero's actions.
2. Contrast the Greek and the Norse explanation for the beginning of the world.
3. Look at the myths of Hyacinth, Narcissus, Adonis, and Clytie. Discuss how these flower myths follow the death/resurrection idea.
4. Discuss how the stories of Demeter and Dionysus follow the cycle of birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
5. Monster myths developed to explain natural phenomenon (e.g., Charybdis or The Clashing Rocks), to explain how wicked people might be punished, and to add excitement to heroic tales. Find a monster myth and explain how the myth corresponds to each of these categories.
6. Choose three myths dealing with love and discuss how these myths illustrate three ideas about love: the essential element of trust; the acceptance of pain or suffering on behalf of love; valuing a person for him/herself and not for external appearances.
7. A common theme in Greek mythology involves punishment that befalls those who try to see themselves as equal to the gods. Consider the myths of Icarus, Arachne, Phaëthon, and Niobe and discuss the sin/punishment element in each of these myths and the lesson that all four put forth.
8. In her introduction Edith Hamilton contrasts the ways the Greeks and earlier peoples viewed the world. What are the differences that she sees between them?
9. Some critics describe Hamilton's Mythology as an "idealized view." Why do you suppose they use that term?

Mythology

Introduction

Vocabulary

aloof – standoffish
amorous – lustful
ardent – passionate
ascribed – credited
bestial – beast-like
clarity – clearness
colossus – giant
compendium – collection
contending – competing
decreed – judged; ruled
discomfit – thwart
disconcertingly – confusingly
divinities – gods
frivolous – silly
indisputable – without question
invariably – always; without fail
meed – reward
omnipotent – all-powerful
preposterous – absurd
prevailed – was uppermost
primeval – primitive
rhetorical – overblown
semblance – appearance
suppliant – one who prays; one who begs
surpassing – exceeding
voluminous – productive

1. What is the difference between primitive and classical mythology?

D. Proteus

E. Naiads

6. Identify some of the Gods of the Underworld.

A. Charon

B. Cerberus

C. Acheron, Cocytus, Styx

D. The Furies

E. Sleep and Death

4. How does “the mildest of winds” help Psyche?

5. When and why does Cupid appear to Psyche?

6. How do her sisters create doubts about Psyche’s future husband?

7. How does this myth end?
