

Honors English II
2018 Summer Assignments
DUE on August 15, 2018

REQUIRED:

- ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee https://www.amazon.com/Kill-Mockingbird-Harper-Lee/dp/0060935464/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1526311825&sr=1-1&keywords=to+kill+a+mockingbird
 - **Corresponding Assignment:** Be prepared for class discussion and a writing assignment about this novel when the school year begins! I recommend annotating the novel (if you have purchased your own copy) or taking notes as you read.

- **Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*** – https://www.amazon.com/Mythology-Timeless-Tales-Gods-Heroes/dp/0446574759/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1526311912&sr=1-1&keywords=edith+hamilton+mythology
 - You only need to read the following parts of this book over the summer: Introduction, (1) The Gods, (2) The Two Great Gods of Earth, (3) How the Earth and Mankind Were Created, (4) The Earliest Heroes, (5) Cupid and Psyche, and (6) Eight Brief Tales of Lovers.
 - **Corresponding assignment:** Complete the study guide provided (a few extra copies are available in the high school guidance office if needed).
 - **NOTE:** The familiarity you build with classical mythology through this assignment will be useful to you (in English classes and beyond) for many years to come!

- ***Oedipus the King* and *Oedipus at Colonus*** by Sophocles https://www.amazon.com/Three-Theban-Plays-Antigone-Oedipus/dp/0140444254/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1526311941&sr=1-4&keywords=oedipus+the+king
 - **Corresponding Assignment:** After reading these two short plays, please respond to each of the attached questions in at least one well-developed paragraph.
 - **NOTE:** We will read *Antigone*, the third play in this trilogy, in September.

RECOMMENDED:

- Keep up (even sporadically) with Poem-a-Day online at <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem-day> . You can sign up to have this emailed to you every day, too.

- Pick a book (or two... or six ☺) to read for pleasure!

- WRITE. Keep a journal. Write actual letters to people – letters of appreciation, letters of apology, letters of whatever you need to say that is more easily written than spoken. Compose haikus about the most

seemingly mundane of situations or most beautiful things you observe. Notice the ways writing fits in with your daily life, both functionally and recreationally.

- Keep up with what's going on in the world – read or watch some news, engage in discussions with your family members or peers, be curious, and be aware of the difference between fact and opinion.

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Oedipus the King and Oedipus at Colonus Questions

Please type your answers (a complete paragraph for each question), and include an MLA heading in the upper left corner of the document. You should share your assignment with me (mneville@cuyhts.org) via your school Google account by the first day of school.

1. In what ways is Oedipus a good ruler to his people? In what ways does he fail them?
2. In what ways is Oedipus intelligent? How is he ignorant as well?
3. Discuss the motif of sight and blindness in the play *Oedipus The King* (A MOTIF is an image, idea, subject, or pattern that is frequently repeated or re-invoked in a piece or writing or art).
4. Three roads met at the crossroads where Oedipus met and killed his father. What is the symbolism behind the fact that it was *three* roads? Where else in the play does the number three become significant?
5. What's the role of forgiveness and revenge in *Oedipus at Colonus*? If you were Oedipus, would you have forgiven Polyneices?
6. Oedipus is always going on about how his daughters are like men because they're responsible. What does *Oedipus at Colonus* show us about gender roles in ancient Greece? Do they have anything to do with gender roles today?
7. Discuss the conflict between fate and destiny on one hand and free will on the other. Which dominates? How does each character grapple with their limited free will?