

**Humane Letters I (Grade 9)**

**Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Due: Beginning of class on August 13, 2026**

Required Reading:

*Mythology, Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton (ISBN 978-0446574754)

After reading the text, write a 2 to 3 page, well organized essay in response to the following prompt:

**What are the most important characteristics of a hero in classical Greek mythology?**

Essays must be typed, with double-spacing, 1-inch margins, and 12-point Times New Roman font. Your essay will be recorded as your first test grade of the course.

Your essay must have:

- an introduction with a thesis statement,
- 3 supporting paragraphs beginning with a topic sentence
- 2 to 3 supporting quotes per paragraph along with analysis on how the quotes support the topic sentence
- a concluding paragraph summing up your argument

Make sure to quote passages to support your argument. Use simple parenthetical citations. For the first quote, reference the author and the page number, and for later quotes only reference the page number. For example: “The first hero in Europe who took a great journey was the leader of the Quest for the Golden Fleece” (Hamilton 117). Note that the period comes at the very end, after the parenthesis.