Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology*

Study Guide and Notes

**Introduction to Classical Mythology**

**Fill in the blanks or write short answers to the following:**

1. How did the Greeks make their gods?
2. The Greeks finally made ________________ out of the stars.
3. What are the “dark spots” referred to by Edith Hamilton?
4. According to the most modern idea, a real myth has nothing to do with religion. It is an explanation of what?
5. Myths served two main purposes: to_________ or to ________.
6. Most of the stories of classical mythology depend chiefly on the Latin poet ______________.
7. The three tragic poets were ____________, ____________, and ________________.
8. The greatest writer of comedy was ________________.
9. Plato was ____________________.
10. ________________ was the greatest of the Roman writers who saw the quality of ________________ in Greek mythology worthy of writing about.


**Chapters 1-2: Complete the chart on 1) The Gods and 2)The Two Great Gods of Earth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek Name</th>
<th>Roman Name</th>
<th>Realm</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Interesting Facts and/or Characteristics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Zeus</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Hera</td>
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<td>3. Poseidon</td>
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<td>4. Hades</td>
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<td>5. Athena</td>
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<td>6. Apollo</td>
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<td>7. Artemis</td>
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<td>8. Aphrodite</td>
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<td>9. Hermes</td>
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<td>10. Ares</td>
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<td>11. Hephaestus</td>
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<td>12. Hestia</td>
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<td>13. Demeter</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Dionysus</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Lesser gods of Olympus
a. Eros--
b. The Graces--
c. The Muses--

Lesser gods of Earth
a. Pan (Faunus)—
b. Castor and Pollux--
c. The Satyrs--
d. Nymphs

Figures of the Underworld
a. Charon--
b. Cerberus--
c. Acheron, Cocytus, Styx--
d. The Furies--
e. Sleep and Death--
f. Nymphs--
g. Boreas, Notus, Eurus, Zephyr

Chapter 2 The Two Great Gods of Earth: Demeter (Ceres) / Dionysus, also called Bacchus pp. 48-64
1. What do Greeks believe are the two basic gifts that Earth gives to man?
2. How are Dionysus and Demeter different from the Twelve Gods of mythology?
3. How does the myth of Demeter explain the seasons of spring and winter?
4. How is this related to Dionysus’ association with grapes and wine?
5. What is he known as, and what does he teach humans?
6. What are the two contrasting ideas associated with the worship of Dionysus?
7. What is the connection between Dionysus and the Greek theater?

Chapter 3 How the World and Mankind Were Created
Answer ALL of the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.
1. Who are Prometheus and Epimetheus?
2. What gifts does Epimetheus give to animals?
3. How does Prometheus make mankind superior to animals?
4. What is the second version of creation, the five stages of man?
5. What does Prometheus do that angers Zeus?
6. How is Prometheus tortured?
7. Why is Pandora created?
8. Why does Zeus send a flood to earth?
9. Who are the only two survivors?
10. What does the Deluge remind you of?

Chapter 4 The Earliest Heroes pp. 78-95
Flower Myths
1. Why is it natural for flowers to be connected with the gods?
2. How did Zeus use the narcissus to help Hades lure Persephone?
3. Why did Hera punish Echo?
4. How did she punish her?
5. What happened to Echo after she was rejected by Narcissus?
6. How did Nemesis punish Narcissus? How was Narcissus freed?
7. What happened to Narcissus's body after he died?
8. How did Hyacinthus die?
9. What happened to Hyacinthus after he died?
10. What is the name of Adonis's flower?
11. What 2 goddesses did Adonis split his time with?
12. What seasons did he spend with each?
13. How did Adonis die?
Chapter 3: How the World and Mankind were Created
Complete the Family Tree

(formless confusion)

(where death dwells)  (love)  (Mother Earth)  (Father Heaven)

(100 hands)  (one-eyed)  Titans  (4th race of monsters)  (The Furies)  (last offspring)

(Saturn)  (Ops)  Iapetus

(The six major Olympians)  (wise)  (foolish)  (Earth holder)

(The remaining six Olympians)

Illustrate in this space the Greeks geographical view. Include Ocean, Mediterranean, Hyperboreans, Ethiopia, and Elysian Fields with a compass rose marking their locations.
Part Two: Stories of Love and Adventure
Chapter 6-8 Eight Brief Tales of Lovers, The Quest of the Golden Fleece, and Four Great Adventures

Write a brief summary paragraph of each of the 8 myths using the “Who? What? When? Where? Why?” format of a newspaper article. Use the myth to title each paragraph.

Part Three: The Great Heroes Before the Trojan War
Answer each question in a complete sentence on a separate sheet of paper.

Chapter 11 Hercules pp. 166-179
1. What are four examples of Hercules great strength?
2. How could you interpret the following quote: “Intelligence did not figure largely in anything he did and was often conspicuously absent”?
3. What happens to Hercules when Hera sends madness to own him?
4. Is he considered guilty of his crimes?
5. How does Hercules become involved in battling Death?
6. What are Hercules’ 12 labors?
7. What happens after Hercules completes the twelve labors?
8. How does he die and why is he allowed onto Mount Olympus?

Part 4: The Heroes of the Trojan War
Chapter 13: The Trojan War
1. What was the Judgment of Paris? How did this eventually cause the Trojan War?
2. How did Helen of Troy become involved in this myth?
3. What sacrifice is Agamemnon required to make?
4. What happens at the end of nine years of fighting with neither side victorious?
5. What was special about Achilles, and what happened to him?

Chapter 14 The Fall of Troy
1. Who becomes the leader of the Greek efforts after Paris is killed?
2. What famous subterfuge do the Greeks use to overthrow Troy?
3. After the fall of Troy, what mistakes do the Greeks make?

Complete the chart of the Battle of the Greeks versus the Trojans from Chapter 13:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greeks</th>
<th>Trojans</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combatants</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gods</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Part 5: The Great Families of Mythology
Chapter 18: The Royal House of Thebes
1. Who are the real parents of Oedipus?
2. Who is Oedipus’s adoptive father?
3. Where did the father of Oedipus leave his infant son because of the curse?
4. What was the riddle of the Sphinx and Oedipus’s answer?
5. What made Oedipus the King of Thebes?
6. Who became Oedipus wife?
7. What did Oedipus learn about his wife and children?
8. What happens to his wife?
9. What does Oedipus do to himself?
10. Name Oedipus’ four children.

Part 6: The Less Important Myths
Chapter 20: Midas
1. What is a contemporary synonym for Midas’s name?
2. How is Midas a man of very little intelligence?
3. What did Midas wish for from Bacchus?
4. Why did Midas regret his wish?
5. How was his wish removed?