

AP English

Literature and Composition

Summer Packet for the **2014-2015** School Year

packet contents: Letter to the AP Lit Student

Mythology Study Packet

Siddhartha Theme Log

Jane Eyre Theme Log

instructor: Roddy Benton

email: bentonro@pcsb.org

website: bentonenglish.com

Respectable Senior,

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition ('AP Lit'). This is a challenging class, but you may already know that by reputation. In some other reality, you might have enrolled in 'Comp' and picked up the same college credit or 'English 4 Honors' and earned the same quality point, but you know that universities smile most kindly on students who don't shy away from AP courses. In fact, the single most reliable predictor of college success (according to UF's Office of Admissions) is a high school student's performance in AP courses; a B or higher in 3 or more AP courses makes you highly desirable to universities. While you could be doing anything else with this portion of your pivotal senior year, you choose to challenge yourself as a learner by enrolling in AP Literature. For that, I respect you.

By the way, bentonenglish.com is the class website. Despite its silly name, it's designed to be quite useful to you. Feel free to visit it this summer if any unforeseen tragedy befalls this packet. Once school starts up, weekly schedule updates, downloadable handouts, e-texts, and other groovy resources shall be at your disposal.

I am strict in a few ways; essays and journals need to be at school by the due date even if you are not. My definition of "cheating" is also very broad. If you write something, you are personally guaranteeing that it is an idea of your own creation. Even closely imitating another human's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions and representing them as your own original work is an intellectual, academic, and moral failure. Zeros, referrals, banishment from honor societies, a general fall from grace, and blacklisting by legitimate universities are all reasonable (and probable) consequences for an individual who sins in this way. I will actually *read* everything you write, so my respect for you as a writer is not just in word but also in deed. Approach this course with a teachable mindset: as an opportunity to improve your academic writing.

If you endured AP Language (not at all necessary in order to succeed in this course, though many concepts do carry over quite well), you recall that course's exam focusing on rhetoric: specifically nonfiction. The AP Literature exam is a wholly different beast. To succeed – that is, to avoid wasting your time – you'll need to be comfortable reading challenging literature on a genuinely analytical level. No matter the text, you must be capable of considering its structure, style, figurative language, imagery, symbolism, tone, and themes. I will help with this.

That said, you *must* do the assigned reading to succeed in this class. I truly mean that; it's about 20 minutes of reading a day. As helpful as Google and all the digitized collective thoughts of the human race are, you will never finish this race if you shoot yourself in the foot with the starter's pistol. If you've been lazy in the past and have taken advantage of cushy courses in which you could get away with crossing the "B" order in the trunk of Spark Notes, don't be ashamed. It's just time to leave that in the past along with those awkward freshmen memories you'd rather be forgotten.

You've (hopefully) read all sorts of literature already in your academic career. These may include such works as [Great Expectations](#), [The Great Gatsby](#), [The Scarlet Letter](#), and [Othello](#). (By the way, those listed are among the top 20 most suggested works on the exam's infamous Question #3.) For this year's class, there are about a dozen diverse works that have been selected for you to add to your literary arsenal; all of them require unhurried, careful reading. You will truly reap what you sow. Three texts are assigned as *summer* reading; the suggested reading order follows:

1. [Mythology](#) by Hamilton (partial reading to complete mandatory questions in preparation for a future Mythology Quiz)
2. [Siddhartha](#) by Hesse: 39,111 words \approx 2 ½ hours (25 quotes on Siddhartha's philosophical search for self)
3. [Jane Eyre](#) by Brontë: 188,209 words \approx 17 ½ hours (25 quotes on Jane's attempt to discover her own true self)

Attached, you will find a **Study Packet** for [Mythology](#). Allusions to classical mythology abound in nearly everything we will read this year (as well as the passages on the exam), so your time with this book is invaluable. You do *not* need to read the text cover-to-cover: complete the study packet for it to be turned in when you return to SPHS on August 19th.

Also attached, you will also find two **Theme Logs** for use with [Siddhartha](#) and [Jane Eyre](#). Read each of these very different *bildungsromans* (yes, Google that) in a scholarly way, paying close attention to the authors' uses of imagery, symbolism, setting, and motifs. On the Theme Logs, record quotations (with page numbers, appropriate context, and explanation) that relate to the title characters' "search for self." You should have at least 25 relevant quotes recorded from each text on August 19th; there will be a reading quiz on [Jane Eyre](#) on the 18th and an in-class essay on [Siddhartha](#) on the 19th.

I am hardworking, and I believe it's my job to help you in any way that I can. That being said, don't hesitate to email me if you have a question. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead.

Name: _____

Summer Study Packet for **Mythology** by Edith Hamilton

Identify by recording who or what each of the following is and why it or they are important.

1. **Ocean** _____
2. **Triton** _____
3. **Proteus** _____
4. **Naiads** _____
5. **Persephone** _____
6. **Charon** _____
7. **Cerberus** _____
8. **Acheron** _____
9. **Styx** _____
10. **Lethe** _____
11. **Elysian Fields** _____
12. **Furies** _____
13. **Pan** _____
14. **Leda** _____
15. **Satyrs** _____
16. **Aeolus** _____
17. **Centaur** _____
18. **Gorgons** _____
19. **Sirens** _____
20. **Janus** _____
21. **Fauns** _____
22. **Hades** _____

Chapter 1 - The Gods

	Greek Name	Roman Name	Relation to other Gods	Function / Purpose / Powers / Other Names
1.	Zeus	_____	_____	_____
2.	Poseidon	_____	_____	_____
3.	Hades	_____	_____	_____
4.	Aphrodite	_____	_____	_____
5.	Hera	_____	_____	_____
6.	Ares	_____	_____	_____
7.	Athena	_____	_____	_____
8.	Apollo	_____	_____	_____
9.	Hestia	_____	_____	_____
10.	Hermes	_____	_____	_____
11.	Artemis	_____	_____	_____
12.	Hephaestus	_____	_____	_____
13.	Ephesus	_____	_____	_____
14.	Muses	_____	_____	_____
15.	Eros	_____	_____	_____
16.	Dionysus	_____	_____	_____
17.	Demeter	_____	_____	_____
18.	Astrea	_____	_____	_____
19.	Moirae	_____	_____	_____

Chapter 2 - Two Great Gods - Demeter and Dionysus

1. Explain why Demeter was considered the older of the two gods:
2. Summarize the story of why we have winter:
3. Explain the circumstances of the birth of Dionysus:
4. Explain why Dionysus was paradoxically considered both a kind and cruel god:
5. What was the festival of Dionysus like?

Chapter 3 - Creation of the World and Mankind

1. Of what did the universe consist prior to creation?
2. Who was the child of darkness and death, and what did its birth bring forth?
3. Who were the first creatures of life? Describe them:
4. Who ruled the universe of monsters?
5. Explain how Zeus became the king of the gods:
6. Briefly summarize both stories of the creation of man:
7. Who was Pandora? What two stories are connected to her?
8. Why is Prometheus treated as he is? What has his name come to stand for?

Chapter 4 - The Earliest Heroes

1. What explanation is given for an eclipse?
2. How did the peacock tail get its eyes?
3. According to Prometheus, how will Io's memory be preserved?
4. Who will be the son of Zeus and Io?
5. Summarize the story of Europa and Zeus: how they met, what Zeus did with her, and how she is remembered:
6. Summarize the story of Odysseus and his encounter with Polyphemus. Be sure to explain the means of his escape:
7. Explain how Persephone was taken to the underworld:
8. Briefly summarize the story of Echo and Narcissus:
9. Where does Echo dwell?
10. How did Nemesis pay back Narcissus for breaking hearts?
11. Explain the origin of the Hyacinth flower:

Chapter 5 - Cupid and Psyche

1. Why did Venus hate Psyche?
2. How did Cupid meet her?
3. What was the cardinal rule of their marriage?
4. Why did Psyche break the rule? What was her punishment?

5. What tortures did Venus put Psyche through?
6. In what way was a happy ending accomplished?

Chapter 6 - Eight Brief Tales of Lovers

1. Explain why the love of Pyramus and Thisbe turned the berries of the mulberry tree from white to red:
2. What later Shakespearean love story was based on this myth?
3. How did Orpheus save the Argonauts?
4. How did Eurydice die?
5. Why did Pluto agree to give up Eurydice?
6. What happened to Orpheus after he lost Eurydice a second time? Where is he buried?
7. Summarize the story of Pygmalion and Galatea:
8. In what way did Baucis and Philemon please the gods?
9. How did Jupiter and Mercury reward Baucis and Philemon?
10. How was Baucis and Philemon's final wish carried out?
11. Why does the shepherd Endymion sleep forever?
12. Explain why the laurel tree is Apollo's symbol:

Chapter 7 - Quest of the Golden Fleece

1. Briefly explain the origin of the golden fleece:
2. Why did Jason go on the voyage to seek the golden fleece?
3. What were the Harpies and how were they banished?
4. What were the Symplegades? Who were the Amazons?
5. Why did Medea fall in love with Jason?
6. Describe the trial Jason must go through to procure the fleece:
7. How does Medea make this possible?
8. After Jason has the fleece, what further deed does Medea do to save him?
9. When Jason discovers the evil deeds that Philius has done while he was away, how does Medea bring about his death?
10. Why does Jason then exile Medea?
11. How does Medea once again outsmart Jason?

Chapter 8 – Phaethon

1. When Phaethon discovers that his father was the sun god, what one request did he make of his father?
2. What was the result of this request?

Chapter 9 – Perseus

1. Summarize the story of Perseus's mother:

2. Why were Perseus and his mother treated so badly by his grandfather?
3. Why did Perseus go in search of Medusa?
4. What aid did Athena give Perseus?
5. What three gifts did the Hyperboreans give him?
6. How did he manage to kill Medusa and escape?
7. Where did he meet Andromeda?
8. How did Perseus get revenge on Polydectes?
9. How did Apollo's oracle concerning Perseus and his grandfather finally come true?

Chapter 10 - Theseus

1. How did Theseus make his identity known to his father, Aegeus?
2. Explain how Theseus killed the Minotaur and escaped:
3. Explain how the Aegean Sea got its name:
4. Describe the manner in which Theseus then ruled the Athens:
5. How did Theseus and Pirithous become chained to the chair of forgetfulness?
6. What caused Theseus to exile his son, Hippolytus?

Chapter 11 - Hercules

1. Why did Hercules have such great self-confidence?
2. What aspects of his character were the cause of much of his troubles?

3. What, above all else, showed his greatness of soul?
4. What was the first clue his mother had of his impending strength and greatness?
5. What formed the cloak that became the symbol of Hercules?
6. From what tragedy did Theseus rescue Hercules?
7. What were the “labors of Hercules” (in general, don't itemize them here)?
8. What was the 1st labor and how did he accomplish it?
9. What was the 5th labor and how did he accomplish it?
10. What trick did Atlas play on Hercules that Hercules turned on Atlas?
11. What was the final “labor?”
12. How are Hercules and Prometheus linked?
13. How did the story of Hercules as a guest of Admetus clearly show his character?
14. How did Hercules finally die?

Chapter 13 - The Trojan War

1. What was the judgment of Paris?
2. What caused the Trojan War?
3. How did Odysseus try to avoid going to war?
4. What did Achilles do in an attempt to avoid the war?
5. What sacrifice had to be made before the Greeks were able to sail to Troy?

6. What was the quarrel between Achilles and Agamemnon about?
7. How did Patroclus finally end the feud?
8. How did Achilles avenge Patroclus' death?
9. Describe the funeral of Hector:

Chapter 14 - The Fall of Troy

1. What caused the death of Achilles?
2. Why did Ajax kill himself?
3. What was the Palladium, and why was it important?
4. How long had Troy been under siege?
5. What was Odysseus' plan to take over Troy?
6. What story did Sinon tell the Trojans to get them to take the horse into the city?
7. Summarize the fate of Priam and Hecuba:
8. What two people did Aphrodite save during the sacking of Troy?
9. What was the final sacrifice of Troy?

Chapter 16 - The Adventures of Odysseus

1. Why did the gods punish the Greeks on their way home from the Trojan War?
2. Who was Cassandra, and what was the tragedy of the gift Apollo gave her?
3. What was happening in Ithaca as Odysseus was wandering?

4. Briefly summarize the 10 trials that Odysseus recounted to the Phaeacean chiefs:
5. When he arrives at Ithaca, how did Odysseus disguise himself?
6. How did he prove his identity and drive out the unwelcome suitors?

Chapter 16 - The Adventures of Aeneas

1. Who was Aeneas, and what city did he found?
2. What had happened to Andromache, Hector's wife, since the Trojan War?
3. What were Scylla and Charybdis?
4. How did Aeneas and his men escape the Cyclops?
5. How did Aeneas happen to go to Carthage?
6. What happened to Aeneas while in Carthage?
7. What was the "red glow" he saw as he finally sailed away from Carthage and Queen Dido?
8. What does the Sibyl of Cumae tell Aeneas to do?
9. What does Anchises tell his son?
10. Who were Latinus and Lavinia?
11. What were the causes behind the war Aeneas fought against the Latins and Rutulians?
12. What group banded together to help Aeneas?
13. How did the battle end?

Chapter 17 - The House of Atreus

1. Summarize the tragedy of Niobe (her personal faults and her ultimate doom):

Chapter 18 - The House of Thebes

1. How did the city of Thebes come to be founded?
2. What did King Laius do when the oracle predicted he would one day be killed by his own son?
3. Describe the Sphinx:
4. What was the riddle of the Sphinx and the solution?
5. Explain how Oedipus fulfilled the oracle's prophecy:
6. When the truth was revealed, what happened to Jocasta? ... to Oedipus?
7. Who ruled Thebes after this?
8. How did Oedipus die?
9. Explain why Creon put Antigone to death:
10. Why did the King of Athens then march on Thebes?
11. Who caused the final ruin of Thebes?

Chapter 20 – Midas

1. How did Midas get the "golden touch?"
2. How did he get rid of it?
3. How did he get the ears of an ass?
4. How did everyone find out he had them?

5. What is the moral of the tale of Midas?

Chapter 21 - Amazons, Hero and Leander, Sisyphus

1. Who were the Amazons?

2. What part did they play in the Trojan War?

3. What was the tragedy of the love between Hero and Leander?

4. How did Sisyphus bring down the wrath of Zeus?

5. How did Zeus punish Sisyphus?

