



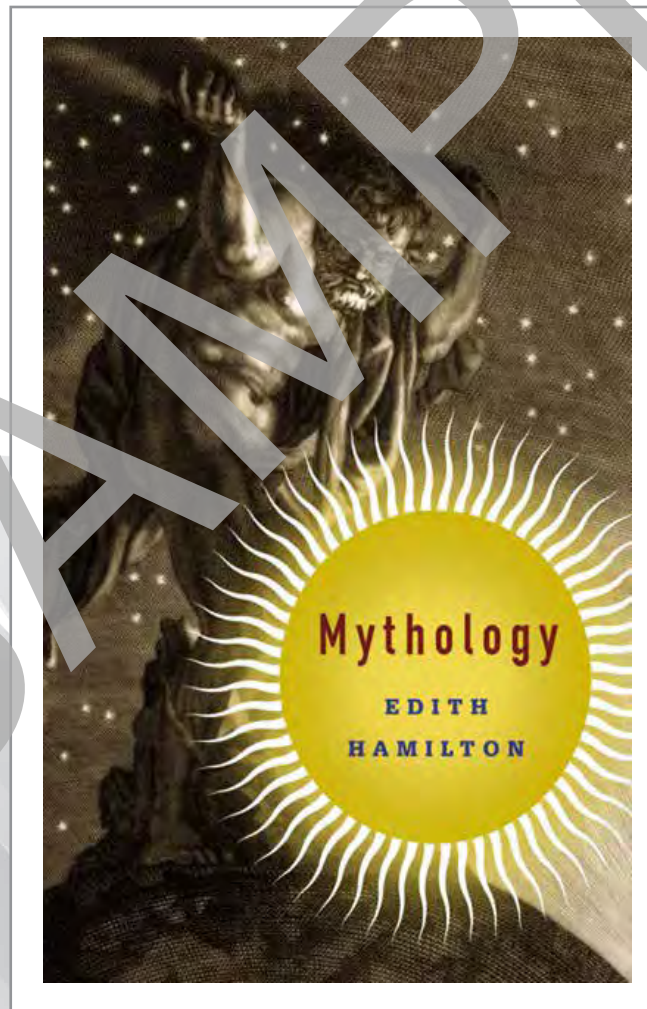
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 9-12

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Mythology

Edith Hamilton



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Mythology

Edith Hamilton

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50204-027-5

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2020 by Novel Units, Inc., St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc.

Reproduction of any part of this publication for an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Conn Education.

Printed in the United States of America.

To order, contact your
local school supply store, or:

Toll-Free Fax: 877.716.7272

Phone: 888.650.4224

3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

novelunits.com

Table of Contents

About the Author	3
Initiating Activities	3
Vocabulary Activities	6
Discussion Questions, Writing Ideas, Activities	
Part One: The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes	
The Gods.....	7
The Two Great Gods of Earth.....	8
How the World and Mankind Were Created.....	8
The Earliest Heroes.....	9
Flower Myths.....	10
Part Two: Stories of Love and Adventure	
Cupid and Psyche.....	11
Eight Brief Tales of Lovers.....	12
The Quest of the Golden Fleece.....	15
Four Great Adventures.....	16
Part Three: The Great Heroes Before the Trojan War	
Perseus.....	18
Theseus.....	18
Hercules.....	19
Atalanta.....	20
Part Four: The Heroes of the Trojan War	
The Trojan War.....	21
The Fall of Troy.....	21
The Adventures of Odysseus.....	22
The Adventures of Aeneas.....	23
Part Five: The Great Families of Mythology	
The House of Atreus.....	24
The Royal House of Thebes.....	25
The Royal House of Athens.....	27
Part Six: The Less Important Myths	
Midas and Others.....	29
Brief Myths.....	31
Bibliography for Teachers	33
Additional Activities	34
Assessment	40

About the Author

Born in Germany and raised in the United States, Edith Hamilton (1867-1963) was a celebrated classicist and teacher. In this volume, she retells the great stories from Greek mythology (as well as Roman and Norse myths) that are the foundation for much of the literature we know today. She draws from tales written by ancient Greek writers over 2,000 years ago—Herodotus, Hesiod, Pindar, Homer, Lucian, Aeschylus, and others who actually believed in what they wrote.

These stories reflect a great deal of what the early Greeks, our intellectual forebears, were like. In them we see their worship of gods made in their own image, their celebration of human beings, their love of rationality, their explanations of the natural world. From Greek myths, we get an idea of what the Greeks believed and what they valued. These myths live on in our literature and art today. Knowing and thinking about them is important to our understanding of the rich cultural heritage we have acquired from ancient Greece.

While the Edith Hamilton collection was used in developing this guide, the suggested activities can also be used in classrooms where Bulfinch or other anthologies are used. Note that Hamilton uses mostly the Greek names and that Norse mythology, included in Part Seven of Hamilton, is not covered in this guide.

Initiating Activities

1. Discussion/Writing

Although many of the Greek myths have been around for over 2,000 years, the themes they address are still central to our lives today: love, hatred, anger, grief, jealousy, betrayal, fate, obedience, piety, death, war, friendship, happiness, and loyalty.

Pre-reading discussion and/or writing on these topics can provide a springboard for later discussion of myths' relevance to our contemporary world.

- *Love and Hatred:* Why does one person fall in love with another person? What qualities will the person you fall in love with probably have? Can you love and hate the same person? What situations arouse hatred?
- *Anger:* When is anger "unhealthy"? At what times is anger adaptive—"good"? What sorts of things make you angry? How do you cope with your anger?
- *Grief:* What sorts of losses arouse grief? What loss would you grieve most? How do people express their grief? How do people cope with grief?
- *Jealousy:* What situations arouse jealousy? Is jealousy a necessary part of love? Are women more jealous than men? Do men and women get jealous about the same things? How can you cope with your own jealousy and that of others? When does jealousy become "unhealthy"?

2. The Two Great Gods of Earth

Of the gods, only two were truly mankind's friends—Demeter and Dionysus.

Synopsis: (a) **Demeter**, Goddess of the Corn, was grief-stricken when her daughter Persephone was taken by the God of the Underworld. Zeus freed Persephone, but her husband tricked her into eating a pomegranate seed, and she was forced to spend four months of the year in the world of the dead. During this sorrowful time, Demeter made the earth wintry and leafless.

Discussion/Writing Questions

1. How and why was Persephone taken from her mother? (*When she strayed from her companions to admire a narcissus, the Lord of the Underworld grabbed her and took her to Hades to be his bride. Zeus sent word that she could return to her mother, Demeter. Persephone had to return to Hades four months of the year because she ate a pomegranate seed.*) What real-world occurrence is explained by the myth of Persephone? (*the winter season*)
2. Was Demeter a good mother? (*She was very devoted and refused to let the earth bear fruit until she had her daughter back.*)
3. What Greek view of male/female relations is revealed by this story? (*Women have power derived from fertility.*)
4. Write another myth that explains the changing of seasons.

Synopsis: (b) Zeus' son, **Dionysus**—God of Wine—could be kind or cruel. He rescued his mother, a mortal, from the underworld and took her to live on Mt. Olympus. But his cruel side surfaced when he went to Thebes accompanied by the Maenads, women frenzied with wine. When Pentheus imprisoned him, the mad women—including Pentheus' own mother and sisters made crazy by Dionysus—tore Pentheus limb from limb.

Discussion/Writing Questions

1. How did Pentheus die? (*Crazed women, including followers of Dionysus and Pentheus' family, tore him apart after he imprisoned Dionysus.*)
2. Do you think Dionysus was responsible for Pentheus' death?
3. What view of alcohol do you think is presented by this story?
4. What do you think about advertising alcoholic beverages on television? Does it encourage irresponsible behavior, especially among underage drinkers?

3. How the World and Mankind Were Created

Synopsis: Love was born from darkness and created Light; the creation of Earth was next and the first living creatures—children of Mother Earth and Father Heaven—were gigantic monsters (Titans, Cyclops, fifty-headed monsters, Giants, and Furies). One Titan, Cronus, became lord of the universe

for ages; then one of his sons, Zeus, became ruler of heaven and earth. One Titan, Prometheus, sided with Zeus. Humans were created (by Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus or by the gods, depending on which story you read). Prometheus stole fire for man and was punished by Zeus, who had him chained to a rock, where eagles pecked at his liver. In another account of the creation, Zeus sent a flood to destroy wicked mankind but Deucalion and Pyrrha survived in a wooden chest and Zeus took pity on them. The stones they cast upon the earth became humans.

Discussion/Writing Questions

1. What is the “theogony”? (*the account of the origin of the gods*)
2. How were heaven and earth formed? (*Mother Earth was created out of chaos and many years later bore Ouranos, Father Heaven.*) Who were their children? (*Titans, Cyclops, Giants, Furies*) Who were their grandchildren? (*gods*)

Draw a family tree that shows the relationship of Ouranos and Gaea to the 12 gods and goddesses of Mt. Olympus.

3. Why was Prometheus punished? (*He helped Zeus fight Cronus and the other Titans, but stole fire and gave it to man. Zeus thought he loved men too well.*)
4. Do you think Prometheus is someone to admire? Have you ever been in a situation like his?
5. The gods were a “family” with Zeus as the father-figure. How did this group make decisions? How is this like/different from the way decisions are made in your family?
6. How were Deucalion and Pyrrha like the biblical Noah and his wife? (*Pyrrha and her husband Deucalion were survivors of the great flood.*)
7. You are Zeus. Design Mother’s and Father’s Day cards for your parents.
8. Write about a time when you, like Prometheus, risked something to stand up for what you believed in.

4. The Earliest Heroes

Synopsis: (a) **Prometheus and Io**—Zeus fell in love with a princess, Io. He turned her into a white heifer to try to trick his jealous wife, Hera. Hera drove Io from her home and sent a gad-fly to plague her. Chained to his rock, Prometheus tried to comfort Io with predictions of a happier future for her.

Discussion/Writing Questions

1. How and why was Io punished? (*Io was turned into a cow by Zeus; she was then plagued by a fly sent by Hera who was jealous of Zeus’ attentions to the maiden.*)
2. How did Prometheus try to comfort Io? (*He told her that in the distant future she would reach the Nile, be restored to human form, and be happy again.*) What else could he have said?