

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Overview & Directions:

**You will need to acquire the following books:**

***Mythology* by Edith Hamilton ISBN-13 : 978-0446574754**

***Chew on This* by Eric Schlosser ISBN-13 : 978-0618593941**

**(advanced readers may opt to read the original *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser ISBN-13 : 978-0547750330- if you decided to do this, please meet with Ms.Lanham to get alternative questions)**

**Students may also voluntarily read the optional selection: *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair ISBN-13 : 978-1619490208**

Please do not answer any questions in writing. These questions are to be used to guide your highlighting, annotating, and Post-It note marking only. We will have discussions and assignments using your summer reading assignments when your return to school in the fall. Have a good summer!

## Introduction to Classical Mythology

pp. 3-18

1. What is the difference between primitive and classical mythology?
2. How are the Greek gods different from Egyptian or Mesopotamian gods?
3. What is “the miracle of Greek mythology”?
4. What are the “dark spots” referred to by Edith Hamilton?
5. How does she define mythology?
6. What happened to the portrayal of Zeus over the years?

## Part 1 – The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes

### Chapter 1 The Gods

pp. 19-52

1. What did the Greeks believe about the origins of the gods and the universe?
2. Who were the first parents?
3. Identify the twelve gods of Olympus by both Greek and Roman names. Explain what each is god(dess) of, what symbol is associated with their character, and one tendency each has.
4. The following are some of the lesser Gods of Olympus. Briefly explain who each of them is: Eros, Hebe, Iris, The Graces, and The Muses
5. The following are some of the Gods of the water. Briefly explain who each of them is: Poseidon (Neptune), Ocean, Triton, Proteus, and Naiads.

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6. The following are some of the Gods of the Underworld. Briefly explain who each of them is: Charon, Cerberus, Acheron, Cocytus, Styx, The Furies, Sleep and Death—
7. Briefly explain who Saturn and Janus are.

## **Chapter 2 The Two Great Gods of Earth: Demeter & Dionysus**

pp. 53-76

1. What did the Greeks think was at the very beginning of things?
2. What do Greeks believe are the two basic gifts that Earth gives to man?
3. How are Dionysus and Demeter different from the Twelve Gods of mythology?
4. How does the myth of Demeter explain the seasons of spring and winter?
5. According to myth, how is Dionysus born? How is this related to Dionysus' association with grapes and wine?
6. What are the two contrasting ideas associated with the worship of Dionysus?
7. Why is Dionysus considered so important to Greeks?
8. How does Dionysus become a symbol of resurrection and immortality?

## **Chapter 3 How the World and Mankind Were Created**

pp. 77-94

1. Who are Prometheus and Epimetheus?
2. What gifts does Epimetheus give to animals?
3. What does Prometheus give to mankind to make us superior to animals?
4. What is the second version of creation, the five stages of man?
5. What does Prometheus do that angers Zeus? How is he punished?
6. Why is Pandora created?
7. Why does Zeus send a flood to earth? Who are the only two survivors?
8. Who are the Stone People?

## **Chapter 4 The Earliest Heroes**

pp. 95-118

Summarize the story of each of these heroes:

1. Prometheus and Io
2. Europa
3. The Cyclops Polyphemus

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4. The Flower Myths: Narcissus, Hyacinth, Adonis

## **Chapter 5 Cupid and Psyche**

pp. 121-134

1. How does Psyche compare in beauty with her sisters?
2. What plan does Venus have for Psyche?
3. What happens when Cupid meets Psyche?
4. How does “the mildest of winds” help Psyche?
5. When and why does Cupid appear to Psyche?
6. How do her sisters create doubts about Psyche’s future husband?

## **Chapter 6 Eight Brief Tales of Lovers**

pp. 135-158

1. How does the Pyramus and Thisbe myth explain the deep red color of the mulberry bush?
2. How does the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice explain the sweetness of the nightingale’s song?
3. How does the myth of Ceyx and Alcyone explain the idea of Halcyon days?
4. How does the myth of Pygmalion and Galatea illustrate the power of love?
5. How does the myth of Baucis and Philemon illustrate nature as a symbol of eternal love?
6. Explain the myth of Endymion.
7. How is the myth of Daphne related to the laurel leaf as a symbol of victory?

## **Chapter 7 The Quest of the Golden Fleece**

pp. 159-179

1. What is the Golden Fleece?
2. Who is Pelias? Why is he worried about a “one-sandaled” stranger?
3. Why does Jason seek the Golden Fleece? Who helps him in his quest?
4. What are three adventures he has along the way?
5. How does the King of Colchis treat Jason when he arrives? What tests does he put Jason through?
6. How does Medea figure in these events?
7. What happens to Pelias after Jason returns with the Golden Fleece?
8. What does Jason do to Medea at the end?

## **Chapter 8 Four Great Adventures**

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pp. 180-194

1. How does the myth of Phaëthon explain the poplar trees that grow along the bank of the river Eridanus?
2. Why does Bellerophon believe that he can be equal to the gods?
3. What does Bellerophon forget?
4. What Greek beliefs does this story of Bellerophon illustrate?
5. How does the myth of Otus and Ephialtes also show the foolishness of trying to rise above the gods?
6. How does the myth of Daedalus explain the expression “flying too close to the sun?”

## **Chapter 9 Perseus**

pp. 197-208

1. How is Perseus’ birth magical?
2. Compare events in Perseus’ life to the following elements of a “Cinderella” story:
  - a. Cinderella’s fairy godmother gives her a ball gown and a coach.
  - b. Cinderella has certain rules to follow, such as leaving the ball by midnight
  - c. Cinderella is rescued from a miserable life by her fairy godmother.
  - d. Cinderella gets the prince in the end.

## **Chapter 10 Theseus**

pp. 209-223

1. Before Theseus can go to Athens and claim King Aegeus as his father, what great test of strength is he required to perform?
2. Why is Theseus loved by the Greeks before he ever meets his father?
3. What two things does Theseus do to help the Athenians in their conflict with Minos?
4. What kind of ruler is Theseus when he becomes King of Athens?
5. How does the story of Hippolytus, Theseus’ son, and Phaedra, his wife, bring about the end of Theseus?

## **Chapter 11 Hercules**

pp. 224-243

1. What are four examples of Hercules great strength?

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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 possess him?
4. Is he considered guilty of his crimes?
5. How does Hercules become involved in battling Death?
6. What happens after Hercules completes the twelve labors?
7. How does he die and why is he allowed onto Mount Olympus?

## **Chapter 12 Atalanta**

pp. 244-251

1. What are the circumstances of Atalanta's birth?
2. List three adventures Atalanta has.
3. What declaration does Atalanta make about marriage?
4. How does Melanion (Hippomenes) win her as his bride?
5. What becomes of Atalanta and her husband?

## **Part 4 – The heroes of the Trojan War**

1. When a Trojan prince called Paris was asked to judge a beauty contest between three goddesses, who bribed him with the offer of the most beautiful woman in the world?
2. To whom was Helen married?
3. The abduction of Helen began a war between Greece and Troy, with many heroes on both sides that lasted how long?
4. How was Achilles killed by Paris?
5. How do the Greeks finally win the war?
6. Who was the only Trojan prince to escape?
7. What was the fatal flaw of most Greek heroes?
8. Achilles could not stand the slight to his honor that Agamemnon brought about by doing what?
9. Why was refusing someone a burial a serious affront to the gods?
10. Earlier heroes were superhuman individuals, who fought alone against monsters and strange creatures, while the Trojan heroes fought whom?

## **Part 4 - The Adventures of Odysseus**

1. Odysseus' journey home to Ithaca took him how long?
2. When Odysseus blinded the Cyclops, he angered whom?
3. Odysseus and his men faced man eating monsters and strange magic, losing how many ships on their journey?

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4. On Circe's island the men were turned into what?
5. Who does Odysseus visit after he rescued the men? Where did he have to go to visit this person?
6. Why were all of Odysseus' men punished? How were they punished?
7. Odysseus alone survived and washed up on the shore of what island? What happened there?
8. Who composed the Odyssey?
9. The Odyssey was in many ways a celebration of what?
10. It was a moral tale that taught proper behavior toward whom?

## **Part 5 – The Great Families of Mythology**

### **Chapter 1 – The House of Atreus**

1. How does Agamemnon die?
2. How does Agamemnon return from the Trojan War?
3. Who are Electra and Orestes?
4. How does the oracle at Delphi affect Orestes?
5. How does he manage to get into his mother's palace?
6. How does Orestes' death differ from that of others in the House of Atreus?

### **Chapter 2 The Royal House of Thebes**

### **Chapter 3 The Royal House of Athens**

## **Part 6 – The Less Important Myths**

### **Chapter 1 – Midas – and Others**

1. In the story of Midas, how does Bacchus prove that Midas is a man of very little intelligence?
2. What other story shows the foolishness of Midas?

### **Chapter 2 – Brief Myths Arranged Alphabetically**

## **Part 7 – The Mythology of the Norsemen**

### **Introduction to Norse Mythology**

### **Chapter 1 – The Stories of Signy and of Sigurd**

### **Chapter 2 – The Norse Gods**

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### **Chew on This : Introduction**

1. What does Schlosser say is the point of the book?
2. Why does he say, “food is one of the most important things you’ll ever buy?”
3. Why does he say that we don’t think much about fast food?
4. Why do you think fast food is not the “kind of food you can make in your kitchen from scratch.”
5. According to the author, why do people keep eating fast food?

### **Chew on This : The Pioneers**

1. How were hamburgers invented?
2. Why were hamburgers assumed to be dirty at first? What helped change that reputation?
3. Who changed hamburgers into America’s favorite food? When? How?
4. How did the culture of California change restaurants?
5. How did the McDonald brothers change their carhop restaurant in 1948?
6. What is a corporate logo and why is it important? What is a good example of this?
7. What did the people who started these businesses have in common? What are they called?
8. How did Ray Kroc change McDonald’s?
9. Why did the new McDonald’s restaurants have to be the same?
10. What influence did the McDonald’s idea of franchising have on other businesses?

### **Chew on This : Youngster Business**

1. What does “brand preference” mean? How do the corporations establish that? (38)
2. What did Ray Kroc and Walt Disney do to become successful? (40)
3. How was McDonaldland similar to Disneyland? (48)
4. Why were the ways that children nag their parents studied at a university? (50)
5. What does “brand stickiness” mean and how does it work? (53) What is another word for it?
6. Why do fast food restaurants build playlands and give out toys? (57)
7. Who makes the “Happy Meal” toys given out at McDonald’s? Why is that a problem? (58)

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### **Chew on This: McJobs**

1. How have small towns across the U.S. changed because of the fast food and automobile industry? What has been lost as a result?
2. What is “suburban sprawl?” Describe a local example.
3. How does McDonald’s choose the best places for new restaurants? Where do they place them?
4. Where do fast food chains put attractive girls? Why? Is this an acceptable practice? Why or why not?
5. Who does the fast food industry like to hire the most? Why?
6. How long does a typical fast food restaurant worker stay at the job? What are some reasons they leave?
7. What is a “McJob?”
8. What do studies show about kids that work more than twenty hours a week while attending high school?
9. Why doesn’t McDonalds give “excellent” or “exceptional” evaluations?
10. What happened when Pascal tried to start a union at McDonalds (in Canada)

### **Chew on This: Secret of the Fries**

1. Who was JR Simplot?
2. Why did Ray Kroc switch to frozen fries?
3. What has happened to small farmers in Idaho who grew potatoes?
4. What kind of profit can fast food restaurants make on French fries?
5. Who runs a “corporate farm?”
6. What was so special about the taste of McDonald’s fries?
7. Why is it important for corporations to get young children to eat fast food?
8. How are smells and memory connected? Why is this important to fast food companies?
9. How do artificial flavors compare to real flavors for children?
10. What’s wrong with children eating unnaturally colored and flavored food?

### **Chew on This: Stop the Pop**

1. What do you think is wrong with allowing fast food chains in schools?
2. What was the purpose of the National School Lunch Act, passed in 1946?
3. Why do schools depend on the sale of junk food and sodas?



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4. Describe your neighborhood in terms of food choices; is it a “food desert” or does it have healthy choices in supermarkets?
5. What is the most profitable item on the menu at fast food restaurants? What kind of profit do the restaurants make?
6. How much soda does the average American drink each year? How much do *you* drink?
7. What are some effects of drinking too much soda on children?
8. What happened to Eskimos’ teeth after sodas were introduced? Why (besides the taste) did they start drinking soda?
9. What is “baby bottle syndrome?”
10. What legislation did Mary Kapsner in Alaska try to get passed in order to help the native people? What happened – did it pass?

### **Chew on This: Meat**

1. How has the meatpacking industry changed since the early 1900’s? (161)
2. What is a “trust?” (162) A “trust buster?”
3. What happens to cow waste? (166)
4. What can happen when manure decomposes? (168)
5. How has the poultry business changed since the fast food industry started? (169)
6. Why did people start to eat more chicken? Does this make sense? Why or why not? (170)
7. How have chickens changed over the years? (172)
8. Describe the health condition of today’s chickens.
9. What is *The Jungle*? (184-5)
10. What difference did the unions that started in the 1950’s make in the lives of workers? (185)
11. What happened to unions in the 1970’s as a result of the fast food industry? How did it affect meatpacking workers? (186)
12. What kinds of accidents and injuries do meatpackers suffer? (189)
13. Why are OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) inspections rare at meatpacking plants? (190)
14. What is E. coli and how does it get into hamburger? What’s the solution? (192)

### **Chew on This: Big**

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1. Who is Sam Fabrikant? How old is he? How much did he weigh and how much fast food did he eat? (202-204)
2. What effects did the extra weight Sam was carrying have? (206)
3. What does the term “morbidly obese” mean? (207)
4. Why aren’t people very successful when they go on diets? (209)
5. The fast food industry says it’s “personal responsibility,” in other words, it’s your own fault for eating too much fast food, if you get fat. However, what does the fast food industry do to their food that may lay some blame on them as well? (210)
6. What does the “80-20 rule” mean?
7. How have the sizes of sodas and fast food meal portions changed over the years? (211)
8. What is the most serious disease linked to obesity, and what are some effects of this disease? (213-214) Should we be concerned?
9. How can eating unhealthy foods damage the brain? (217) The aorta? (218-219) The backbone? (220) The liver? (221) the heart? (222)
10. What are the risks of the gastric bypass surgery? (226)

### **Chew On This: Your Way**

1. Where does McDonald’s earn most of its profits? (236)
2. What is meant by a “McWorld?” (236)
3. What is the “100 Meters Program?” (237)
4. What often happens in foreign countries when anti-American feelings grow?
5. What is mad cow disease? How did it affect the fast food market? (242)
6. What is meant by “animal rights?” Do you think animals should have rights? If so, what should they be? 242
7. How has the fast food business changed over the years? 244