

Harding Township School - Summer Assignment

Incoming Grade 7 English/Language Arts

DUE: September 6, 2023

Assignment Rationale/Objective:

This summer reading initiative will support the students' efforts in the classroom. In September, the seventh-grade language arts program begins an ancient cultures origins of storytelling and mythology unit/author, allowing students to:

- connect to ancient cultures and classic hero's journey and creation storytelling
- learn the power of myth on our language, literature, and culture today
- examine how writers modernize mythological storytelling themes, characterization, and magical elements to create engaging new stories- reinforcing the essential question concerning the mutability of myth, "Why do we have varied tellings of the same myth story?"
- analyze how a writer develops a unique style in terms of characterization, plot development, and theme.
- annotate reading for characterization, setting and theme as a pre-writing activity for a literary essay in September.

Below, find several choices of engaging titles. These books will enrich your studies this year in language arts as well as social studies, while making your experiences with this year's class novels more rewarding and memorable.

Required materials:

- 1) Choose ONE of the below listed novels, all related to mythology** Books may be available for free through the Kemmerer Public Library, or for purchase through local bookstores or online vendors such as amazon.com.

Note: If purchasing a book is financially difficult for any family at this time, please reach out to Mrs. Howard in the HTS Middle School Office for private assistance no later than June 30.

1. *The Shadow Thieves*

Ursu, Anne **Reason:** Set in the real world,, enjoyable, with a, witty update of classic Greek mythology introducing a likeable hero involved with conflict among the Greek Gods.

2. *Iris, Messenger - this book is very difficult to find*

Demming, Sarah **Reason:** After mortal Iris (Iris, Messenger) discovers that Greek gods are a part of her modern world, her life becomes intertwined with mythology.

3. *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp*

Yancey, Richard (Rick) **Reason:** Modern day reluctant heroes trying to save the world are at the center of these fast-paced adventure fantasies. In Alfred Kropp, a teen takes the legendary sword, Excalibur.

4. *The Afterlife Academy*

Cole, Frank. When Walter Prairie is struck dead by a bolt of lightning, he's fast-tracked through the Afterlife Academy and assigned as a Guardian Agent to protect a High-Level Target.

5. *The Flame of Olympus*

O'Hearn, Kate

When Pegasus crashes onto a Manhattan roof during a terrible storm, thirteen-year-old Emily's life changes forever. Suddenly allied with a winged horse she'd always thought was mythical, Emily is thrust into the center of a fierce battle between the Roman gods and a terrifying race of multiarmed stone warriors called the Nirads.

6. *Loki's Wolves*

Armstrong, Kelley

While 13-year-old Matt Thorsen has always known he's a modern-day descendent of Thor, he's been living a normal kid's life. In fact, most people in the small town of Blackwell, South Dakota, are direct descendants of either Thor or Loki, including Matt's classmates Fen and Laurie Brekke. No big deal. But now Ragnarok is coming, and it's up to the champions to fight in the place of the long-dead gods.

2) **Graphic organizers for notes:** Click link and make a copy in order to work directly in the document.

Access full directions and online note organizers at **HTS Summer Reading homepage**.

Please do NOT procrastinate until mid-August to start this assignment!

Overview instructions:

IN THIS **RECOMMENDED ORDER**:

A. Read your selected novel from the above list.

B. As you read, TYPE notes in the ON-LINE graphic organizers. (View only - make a copy!)

Rename file: Your LAST NAME, FIRST NAME Summer reading 2023 7ELA

- **Important:** Use your SCHOOL GOOGLE ACCOUNT as you work so you can access these notes in September at school.
- You will need a **print-out** in order to receive credit for your notes
- You will have **an in-class writing assessment in September** and can use your online notes in class.

Estimated time for completion/Suggested pacing: May vary by student. Below are estimates:

- Reading: Depends on book selected and individual reading pace.
- Organizers: Rough estimate: 45 minutes per organizer x 3 organizers = 135 minutes

Percentage of first marking period grade: This is your first test grade of the marking period.

Process for requesting help over the summer: Email: lwerner@hardingtwp.org or jbaldassari@hardingtwp.org

Plagiarism (direct word for word copying, paraphrasing/word substitution, or copying of notes) violates school policy and will result in a zero.