

**Crossroads Academy**  
**Incoming Sixth Grade Required Summer Reading and Writing**

1. The first history unit in the fall centers on the topic of Judaism and Christianity. Please read, be familiar with, and be ready to discuss the stories found in *Bible Stories for Children* as retold by Geoffrey Horn and Arthur Cavanaugh. (available on loan from Crossroads)
2. In addition, one of the first units in sixth grade is a study of myth and how this relates to *The Iliad*. In preparation for this unit, please read and be familiar with the following selections/stories from D'Aulaires' *Book of Greek Myths* (available on loan from Crossroads):

**Greek Creation Myth and the Origin of the Gods**

*In Olden Times*

*Gaea, Mother Earth*

*The Titans*

*Zeus and his Family*

**Gods, Goddesses, and Heroes**

*Hera*

*Aphrodite*

*Orpheus*

*Ares*

*Athena*

*Poseidon*

*Apollo*

*Heracles*

**Greek Myths**

*The Golden Fleece*

*The Apples of Love and the Apple of Discord*

3. The word myth comes from the Greek *muthos*. As defined by Neil Philip on page 8 of *The Illustrated Book of Myths* "Myths are stories of gods and godlike heroes. They tell of beginnings and ends, creation and destruction, life and death. They explain the how and why of life." In a written response to your reading/review of each of the two assigned Greek myths, please do the following:

***The Golden Fleece***

Describe the main character (physical and personality) and why he might be considered a hero.

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Describe his journey by describing one important adventure and how he faced this adventure. Was there a point in the journey when the main character seemed to “fall” as the hero? If so, when was that point?

How did the main character end up and why?

What do you think this myth might explain about human nature?

*The Apples of Love and the Apple of Discord*

Describe what happens between the goddesses and the golden apple.

Who is Helen and who is her husband?

How does Paris enter Helen’s life?

How does the relationship between Paris and Helen cause the Trojan War to begin?

Which gods/goddesses fight for the Greeks and which gods/goddesses fight for the Trojans and why does each fight for their chosen side?

4. Read a **biography** of a heroic person who lived at any time period before the 1800s and bring the biography with you to school. The subject of the book must be an individual who actually lived, not a character in a story. The person you choose may represent any area of expertise, including science, mathematics, literature, music, art, politics, etc.

A heroic person is an individual who:

- a) promoted real change for the good of the world during his/her time period.
- b) lived an exemplary life by practicing essential virtues, including the following: responsibility, perseverance, courage, justice, honesty, or self-discipline.

Examples: Michelangelo, Mozart, Benjamin Franklin, Galileo, St. Francis of Assisi, Queen Elizabeth I of England, Isaac Newton, etc.

**Please bring a copy of this biography with you for the first two weeks of school.**

5. List three characteristics/virtues/personality traits you would use to describe the main character found in your biography.
6. Read any additional books found either on the Middle School Reading List or on any list of excellent literature for students of your age for additional credit.
7. **Extra Credit Required Reading Response:** You need to keep a **record** of your extra reading on the included form. Please be sure the form is filled out completely, and bring it with you to English class on the first day of school. Please make a note if you read additional books not on the **Middle School Reading List**.

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8. Please note that you will receive a grade for your summer reading and response. If you read the requested book/stories and include the writing responses requested, you will receive a grade of B+. Reading more than the basic requirement and recording the extra books you read on the accompanying form will help you to earn a grade above the basic B+.

## Crossroads Academy Extra Credit Summer Reading Form

\_\_\_\_\_ has completed the following required reading:  
(Student's Name)

1. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ has completed the following required reading:  
(Student's Name)

1. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_