

MYTHOLOGY 2009 SUMMER READING

In this course we will attempt to uncover the values and beliefs of cultures by reading their stories, myths, and legends. As we read and study, we will realize that some of the ideas and themes will recur across lands and times. These recurring lessons are the overlapping archetypes and motifs of cultures across the world; they are, perhaps, the “common dreams of mankind” (Leeming 5). As you read, consider if any of the myths reveal some of your hopes, dreams, and fears. Does America 2009 produce similar stories, if not in books, maybe in the form of movies, video games, TV shows? Remember - stories take many forms.

One work:

Your choice of one work from the list on the back. This list is divided into genres, and the books included are not necessarily ‘myths.’ **You** will decide if the work may be considered a myth. During the semester, our class will use the working definitions of myth below. Does your summer reading work fit all/some of the definitions of myth below?

DEFINITIONS OF MYTH

1. An explanation of
 - a. how the world came to be
 - b. why it is as it is
 - c. how it might end
2. Generally accepted belief unsubstantiated by fact
3. The Dreams of Humankind – archetypes
“the eternal story of humanity’s quest for self-fulfillment in the face of entropy...”. ~ *The World of Myth* Editor, David Leeming

Mythology Book List

Classics

Oedipus Rex (do not read if you are in SR English)
Agamemnon
Don Quixote (do not read if you are in SR English)
Paradise Lost
Utopia ((do not read if you are in SR English)

Sophocles
Aeschylus
Miguel de Cervantes
John Milton
Thomas More

Fantasy

26A
The Mists of Avalon
War for the Oaks
The Gunslinger
A Song of Ice and Fire
Ysabel
Briar Rose
The Naming
Incantation
*Tales before Tolkien: The Roots of
Modern Fantasy*

Diana Evans
Marion Zimmer Bradley
Emma Bull
Stephen King
George R. R. Martin
Guy Gavriel Kay
Jane Yolen
Alison Croggon
Alice Hoffman
Anthology

World Literature

A Thousand Splendid Suns
The Kite Runner
When Heaven and Earth Changed Places
Things Fall Apart (do not read if you are in AP/SR English)
Tay John
Afghan Caravan
Bluebirds Used to Croon in the Choir
The Lion and the Jewel
In the Castle of My Skin
The Doll's House
The Trial

Khaled Hosseini (Afghanistan)
Khaled Hosseini (Afghanistan)
Lely Hayslip (Vietnamese)
Chinua Achebe (African)
Howard O'Hagan (Canadian)
edited by Safia Shah (Afghanistan)
Joe Meno (American)
Wole Soyinka (African)
George Lamming (Caribbean)
Henrik Ibsen (Norwegian)
Franz Kafka (Austro-Hungarian)