

## MYTHOLOGY/WOMEN'S LIT 2010 SUMMER READING

For those of you who do not know in which course you will be enrolled in September, here is a brief synopsis of important ideas of the two courses. As you read your summer reading selection, consider that work in light of these descriptions.

### MYTHOLOGY

In Mythology, 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 ideas of the work reveal some of your hopes, dreams, and fears.

### WOMEN'S LITERATURE

Women's Literature will involve an examination of women from a variety of cultures and historical periods and their unique ideas, thoughts, and perspectives as writers. The course will focus on what women have written about themselves and the issues that are significant to them. Regardless of whether the author of your work is male or female, consider how the gender of the author influences his/her style, subject matter, and overall message.

### One work:

**Your choice of one work from the list below and on back.** When we return from vacation, you will write an essay applying the work you read to an idea or theme from Mythology or Women's Literature, depending on the class in which you find yourself. Any work will connect to these ideas, so please choose a book that appeals to you! Gender of author is not important at this point!

## Book List

### Classics

<i>Oedipus Rex</i> (do not read if you are in SR English)	Sophocles
<i>Agamemnon</i>	Aeschylus
<i>Don Quixote</i> (do not read if you are in SR English)	Miguel de Cervantes
<i>Paradise Lost</i>	John Milton
<i>Utopia</i> ((do not read if you are in SR English)	Thomas More
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Jane Austen
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austen
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte

## **Fantasy**

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*The Mists of Avalon*

*War for the Oaks*

*The Gunslinger*

*A Song of Ice and Fire*

*Ysabel*

*Briar Rose*

*Surfacing*

*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

Margaret Atwood

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*

*Bound Feet and Western Dress*

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*

*The Joy Luck Club*

*The Bastard of Istanbul*

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)

Pang-Mei Natasha Chang (China)

Lisa See (China)

Amy Tan (Chinese-American)

Elif Shafak (Turkish)

## **Contemporary Literature**

*The Bean Trees*

*The Yellow Wallpaper*

*The Bell Jar*

*The Bluest Eye*

Barbara Kingsolver

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Sylvia Plath

Toni Morrison