

Summer Reading-8th grade honors

Choose one of the following books below. Then complete the assignment on the following page.

For the Binge-Worthy Modern Retellings

- *Circe or The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller: Beautifully written, deeply immersive, and highly emotional perspectives of the Trojan War and the Odyssey. Great for fans of historical fiction.
- *A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Saint: A brilliant feminist retelling of the Trojan War focusing entirely on the perspectives of the women involved.
- *Ithaca* by Claire North: A witty, captivating story that elevates Penelope—the wife of Odysseus—to the true power player of her husband's saga.

For the Foundational Classics

- *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton: The quintessential guide to Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology. Perfect if you want a comprehensive, easy-to-digest reference.
- *The Greek Myths* by Robert Graves: A more in-depth, scholarly, and analytical dive into the stories, ideal if you want to understand the historical and religious contexts of the myths.

For Teens & Beginners

- *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* by Rick Riordan: The ultimate action-packed introduction to Greek mythology, where ancient gods run wild in modern-day America.
- *Percy Jackson's Greek Hero* by Rick Riordan Believe it or not, this volume of Greek heroes, written by the irreverent Percy Jackson, will make you laugh out loud.
- *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods* by Rick Riordan Percy Jackson provides a snarky, modern, and irreverent retelling of the origins and myths of the Olympians, narrated with his signature humor and firsthand perspective on his dysfunctional divine relatives.
- *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*: A gorgeously illustrated and timeless collection that is perfect for readers of all ages.
- The *Olympians* series by George O'Connor: A fantastic graphic novel series that approaches mythology with dynamic artwork and individual character focus.
- *Black Ships Before Troy* by Rosemary Sutcliff: A highly acclaimed and accessible retelling of Homer's *Iliad*. It is a thrilling, action-centered way to introduce middle schoolers to the Trojan War.
- *Greek Myths* by Ann Turnbull, illustrated by Sarah Young Discover sixteen well-written and beautifully illustrated myths that are written like narrative stories with dialogue.
- *The Iliad/The Odyssey* by Gillian Cross Kids fascinated by Greek mythology will want to read these age-appropriate adaptations of Homer's classic epics. Young readers will dive into an ancient world filled with gods, heroes, monsters, and adventure. This boxed set makes an excellent gift for young Greek mythology enthusiasts!
- *A Journey Through Greek Myths* by Marchella Ward If you want a book that honors the beauty and complexity of Greek myths, look no further. This stunning book is reminiscent of the classics and will keep readers enchanted. Readers will learn about the people, places, and deities in Ancient Greece, from the Underworld to Mount Olympus.

Page Ideas

Choose three options from the choices below. Create a scrapbook from your summer reading and include your three choices. The cover of the scrapbook should include the title and author of the book, your name, and an image. Each assignment should be on a separate page and should be labeled. The assignment can be turned in digitally or on paper. It is due Friday, August 14, 2026.

PAGE TYPE	IDEAS
Family Tree Map	Draw a colorful Greek god family tree. You may use digital or hand drawn images, but your tree should look "professional."
Trading Cards	Design "trading cards" for gods and heroes. Include the names of the gods/heroes and their traits.
Myth Comic	Create a 1–2 page comic for a myth that you read. All parts of the plot map should be covered (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)
Symbol Collage	Draw/collect 12 significant myth symbols based on the story you read. Make a collage of these symbols and tell which god/goddess and what trait they represent.
Theme Tracker	Explore common themes like pride or loyalty. Write a paragraph of at least 10 sentences explaining how the theme is present throughout. Give examples from the text. Cite the page number of the text .
Instagram Profile	Create a fake social media profile for gods/heroes. (Check Canvas for fillable Google Doc.)
Report Card	Create a report card with class names of gods and goddesses from the text (5-7), grades & teacher comments that show their character traits.
Hero's Journey Growth Timeline	Chart a hero's development. (Check Canvas for fillable Google Doc)
Current Symbols	Find 12 examples of mythological symbols in today's society. Make sure to say which god/goddess it is linked to and what they are known for. For example: Nike, goddess of victory, is linked to Nike sportswear.