

Freshman Honors Summer Reading Assignment

The Secret Life of Bees by: Sue Monk Kidd
Mythology (selections, see below) by: Edith Hamilton



Your summer reading assignment is your first assignment in Honors English and will count as 10% of your first quarter grade. It is due to your English teacher on Tuesday, August, 31st by the end of the day regardless of which semester you will be taking English. **It will NOT be accepted at a later date.** You must purchase the books or check them out from a local library. We will be using Mythology throughout the semester so it would be a good idea to have your own copy.

The first part of the assignment is to read The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd and answer the following question in a well-written, 2+ page essay:

Kidd's novel is filled with symbolism. Choose three objects from the novel that represent something larger than themselves, three symbols. In your essay, explain how each symbol is significant and how it relates to the theme(s) of the novel. Your introductory paragraph should clearly state the theme(s) to which you will relate these symbols.

The second part of the summer reading assignment is to read two sections in Edith Hamilton's Mythology: "The Gods" and "The Two Great Gods of the Earth." There is no formal writing assignment for this reading, but you should take notes on the chapters and be prepared for a test on the first week of school. Your notes will be collected on the first day with your essay and returned to you at test time.

During the first week of school all freshman, honors English students will be given a test on both pieces of literature. It would be a good idea for those students who complete the assignments early to review their notes before school start so that the material is fresh in their minds.