Southwest Licking School District

Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Paula Ball
School: Watkins Memorial High School

Book Title: Mythology
Genre: Fiction

Author: Edith Hamilton
Publisher: Back Bay Books

Book Summary and summary citation:

From Barnes and Noble:

A collection of Greek and Roman myths from various classical sources arranged in section on the gods and early heroes, love and adventure stories, heroes before and during the Trojan War, and lesser myths. Includes a brief section on Norse mythology.

Instructional Rationale/Objectives:

Read and comprehend literature at grade level.

Cite textual evidence to support what text says and draw inferences

Review #1:

Amazon.com Review:

Edith Hamilton loved the ancient Western myths with a passion--and this classic compendium is her tribute. "The tales of Greek mythology do not throw any clear light upon what early mankind was like," Hamilton explains in her introduction. "They do throw an abundance of light upon what early Greeks were like--a matter, it would seem, of more importance to us, who are their descendents intellectually, artistically, and politically. Nothing we learn about them is alien to ourselves." Fans of Greek mythology will find all the great stories and characters here--Perseus, Hercules, and Odysseus--each discussed in generous detail by the voice of an impressively knowledgeable and engaging (with occasional lapses) narrator. This is also an excellent primer for middle- and high-school students who are studying ancient Greek and Roman culture and literature. --Gail Hudson

Review #2:

New York Times Book Review

No one in modern times has shown us more vividly than Edith Hamilton 'the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome.' Filtering the golden essence from the mass of classical
literature, she proved how applicable to our daily lives are the humor and wisdom of more than 2,000 years ago.

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

**Title:** Myths of Light: Eastern Metaphors of the Eternal (Collected Work of Joseph Campbell Series) by Joseph Campbell

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

The Gods display all human vices including sexual activity, greed, violence, and manipulation

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 9 and 10

**Reading level of this title (if applicable):** 9/10

**Date Submitted to website:** August 1, 2011

**Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today’s Young Adults