

BIBLICAL AND MYTHOLOGICAL ALLUSIONS

Knowing the traditions that influence modern and classic literature is essential to enriching your interpretation and understanding of the texts you read. AP students must be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of some of the most popular biblical and mythological allusions. Below is a list (by no means exhaustive) of stories and characters from ancient literature of which you will need to have a working knowledge. Using inter-textual references and recognizing allusions on AP essays will most definitely catch the eye of the readers!

CRITERIA:

- ☐ Look up and review each of the following allusions.
- ☐ Record a brief HANDWRITTEN summary.
- ☐ Expect an exam on the first day of class.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES: Most Old Testament stories are in the books of Genesis and Exodus; most New Testament stories are in the books of Matthew and Luke. You can also find a “Bible as Literature” book in the library or search out biblical references on the Internet.

OLD TESTAMENT

- ☐ Creation (Adam and Eve, Garden of Eden):

- ☐ Cain and Abel:

- ☐ Noah and the Ark:

- ☐ David and Goliath:

- ☐ Moses (from birth to Promised Land):

- ☐ Abraham and Isaac:

- ☐ Jacob and Esau:

- ☐ Tower of Babel:

- ☐ Jonah and the Whale:

- ☐ Samson and Delilah:

- ☐ Solomon:
- ☐ Job:
- ☐ Ruth:
- ☐ Jacob and the Ladder:
- ☐ Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors:
- ☐ Daniel in the Lion's Den:
- ☐ Elijah:
- ☐ Jezebel:
- ☐ Lot (Sodom and Gomorrah):

NEW TESTAMENT

- ☐ Birth of Jesus:
- ☐ Parable of the Prodigal Son:
- ☐ Lazarus:
- ☐ Sermon on the Mount:
- ☐ John the Baptist:
- ☐ Last Supper:

- ❑ Judas:

- ❑ Crucifixion:

- ❑ Resurrection:

- ❑ Doubting Thomas:

- ❑ Armageddon:

- ❑ The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse:

MYTHOLOGICAL REFERENCES: The following allusions are mainly from the Greek and/or Roman traditions, but I have included other stories and legends that tend to pop up in literature as well. Your best resource will be Thomas Bulfinch's *Mythology*. You may also use credible Internet sites, such as mythman.com.

- ❑ Daedalus and Icarus:

- ❑ Persephone and Demeter:

- ❑ Prometheus:

- ❑ Eurydice and Orpheus:

- ❑ Agamemnon:

- ❑ Achilles:

- ❑ Hector:

- ❑ Tantalus:

- ☐ Hercules:

- ☐ Perseus:

- ☐ Jason and the Argonauts:

- ☐ Theseus:

- ☐ Apollo:

- ☐ Dionysus / Bacchus:

- ☐ River Lethe:

- ☐ River Styx:

- ☐ Sisyphus:

- ☐ Cerberus:

- ☐ King Arthur:

- ☐ Sir Modred:

- ☐ Lancelot:

- ☐ Guinevere:

- ☐ Beowulf: