

Savannah Classical Academy Summer Reading Requirements

Rising Ninth Graders

1. Poem memorization. Memorize “Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley. (Hear it read at <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/resources/learning/core-poems/detail/46565>). Be ready to recite by the first day of school.

2. Rising ninth graders will read TWO books in preparation for next year: *Mythology: Timeless*

Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton and *The Gifts of the Jews* by the historian Thomas Cahill. Both books are available in the Live Oaks Public Libraries as well as at local bookstores like Barnes and Noble. Be sure to take notes as you read, and be ready to discuss and write about each book on the first day of school.

The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels.

**Note:* This book discusses both the religious and cultural practices of the ancient Middle East. Some content is mature and graphic, including sections describing sexual and physical assault. If for any reason you have concerns about your student reading this book, or specific passages in this book, please contact us for alternative options.

The author of the runaway bestseller *How the Irish Saved Civilization* has done it again. In *The Gifts of the Jews* Thomas Cahill takes us on another enchanting journey into history, once again recreating a time when the actions of a small band of people had repercussions that are still felt today.

The Gifts of the Jews reveals the critical change that made western civilization possible. Within the matrix of ancient religions and philosophies, life was seen as part of an endless cycle of birth and death; time was like a wheel, spinning ceaselessly. Yet somehow, the ancient Jews began to see time differently. For them, time had a beginning and an end; it was a narrative, whose triumphant conclusion would come in the future. From this insight came a new conception of men and women as individuals with unique destinies--a conception that would inform the Declaration of Independence--and our hopeful belief in progress and the sense that tomorrow can be better than today (Source: Amazon.com).

***Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton**

Since its original publication by Little, Brown and Company in 1942, Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* has sold millions of copies throughout the world and established itself as a perennial bestseller in its various available formats: hardcover, trade paperback, mass market paperback, and e-book. *Mythology* succeeds like no other book in bringing to life for the modern reader the Greek, Roman, and Norse myths and legends that are the keystone of Western culture - the stories of gods and heroes that have inspired human creativity from antiquity to the present.

“Ozymandias”

By Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1792-1822

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—“Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things, The
hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed; And on
the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings; Look
on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

Percy Bysshe Shelley, whose literary career was marked with controversy due to his views on religion, atheism, socialism, and free love, is known as a talented lyrical poet and one of the major figures of English romanticism (Poets.org).