

PAREF SOUTHRIDGE SCHOOL  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
WORKLOAD FOR SENIORS  
AFTERNOON SCHOOL  
For the Period June 26 to July 1, 2009

1. Journal Entry # 1

In your notebook, explain the origin or source of your first name or how your parents derived it. (three or more sentences)

2. Journal Entry # 2

In your notebook, construct your family tree from your great grandparents. Include the places of origin or places of birth of the family members that make up your tree.

3. Read this definition of mythology:

*Mythology is the body of myths belonging to a culture. Myths are traditional stories about gods and heroes. They often account for the basic aspects of existence — explaining, for instance, how the Earth was created, why people have to die, or why the year is divided into seasons. Classical mythology — the myths of the ancient Greeks and Romans — has had an enormous influence on European and American culture.*

In your notebook, list three important terms from the definition above. Look up their meanings in a dictionary.

4. Read the following passage:

*The literature of the Greeks highlights the heroes and events in their history. One distinct feature of their literature is the inclusion of their belief in many gods. The mythology of the Greeks presents deities that are more believable or closer to reality than the gods of the other civilizations of their time — the Sumerians and the Egyptians. Greek literature flourished because of the importance it placed on culture and the arts.*

*One of the most popular epics of all time came from the Greeks. The **Iliad**, written by Homer, documents the Trojan War and the triumphs of their epic hero, Achilles. It is important to understand the traits, strengths, values and weaknesses of Achilles since he has been considered as the embodiment of a Greek Warrior.*

*Certain cultural values are given importance in the epics which aimed to remind the target readers, the Greeks themselves, about honor and the concept of fate.*

In your notebook, answer the following questions from the passage above.

1. How important was literature to the Greeks? Did they consider it more than a form of entertainment? Explain.
2. Based on the passage, what is an epic hero?