

Summer Reading

AP English students read and arrive ready to discuss and write about: first, *House of the Spirits*, by Isabelle Allende; second, a trilogy of Greek tragedies 1) *Oedipus Rex (the King)* (pronounced Ed'-eh- pus), 2) *Oedipus in Colonus*, and 3) *Antigone* (pronounced An-tig'-o-nee) These are all plays by the Greek playwright Sophocles written about 450 BCE, and have entered the collection of Western stories that are referred to as myths - i.e., stories so large and enduring they are seen as statements and explications of the common human condition. As well, AP students read and must be familiar with one of the following Greek myths:

By Aeschylus:

Agamemnon

Prometheus Bound

By Aristophanes

Lystistrata

By Euripides

Hippolytus

Finally, read and be VERY familiar with *Job*, in the Old Testament of the *Bible*. Be prepared to discuss and write about the issues facing the character Job and his community at the time, and what questions the story asks us in our present time regarding the issue of why righteous people suffer and wicked people prosper. In preparation for this issue, read *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya.

If you are tempted to get Cliff Notes rather than do the reading, transfer immediately to the regular College Prep English IV. If you are tempted to get Cliff Notes to help you understand, go rather to a local library such as at the Community College and look up commentary on the plays. Any questions? If questions come to you during the Summer, my extension is 1_909, and I will check my voice mail every week or so. Do this work in July and August, and know the work well.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS:

Mythology by Edith Hamilton

Elements of Style

by Strunk & White

Answer to Job by Carl Jung