

**4 books to enjoy -- all of these books may be purchased or ordered from your favorite local book store. Be sure to allow two to four weeks for delivery if you must order any of the titles. The books should be available in libraries as well.**

**1. *Mythology***--Edith Hamilton. This is suggested reading only -- not required. Reading Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* and having some Bible background will be invaluable sources for our discussions throughout the year.

**2. Any book of poetry**--an anthology with several selections by one poet of your choice, or a collection by a single poet

Suggested poets: Akhmatova, Ai, Alegría, Amichai, Atwood, Auden, Basho, Baudelaire, Behn, Bishop, Blake, Bly, Boland, **Bradstreet**, **Braithwaite**, Brodsky, Brooks, Browning, Celan, Cisneros, **Clifton**, **Collins**, Corso, Creeley, Cummings, Curbelo, Dickey, **Dickinson**, Dobyns, **Donne**, Doty, Dove, **Eberhart**, **Eliot**, Erdrich, Espada, Fairchild, Ferlinghetti, Forché, **Frost**, Ginsberg, Giovanni, Gluck, Graham, Hall, Haskins, Hass, **H.D.**, **Heaney**, Ignatow, Jerome, Justice, Kabir, **Keats**, Kenyon, Kinnell, Kinsella, Kumin, Kunitz, Lawrence, Lee, Lehman, Levertov, Levine, Lorca, Lowell, Martinez, Meinke, Merwin, Millay, Milosz, (Susan) Mitchell, Neruda, Nye, Olds, (Mary) Oliver, Pasternak, Paz, Piercy, Pinsky, **Plath**, **Poe**, **Rich**, Rilke, Rimbaud, **Roethke**, Rossetti, Rukeyser, Rumi, Samaras, Sappho, Sarton, Sexton, **Shakespeare**, Simic, Snyder, Stafford, Stern, Stevens, Strand, **Swenson**, **Szyborska**, **Tennyson**, Thomas, Tranströmer, Tsvetayeva, Updike, Whitman, Whyte, **Wilbur**, **Wordsworth**, Wright, **Yeats**, Yevtushenko, Zamora . . . or check with me for other recommendations.

\*As soon as we begin school this fall, I will give you instructions on how to create a **15-minute oral reading and personal response** OR a written paper on the poetry you have chosen for intensive reading. Just read for now.

---

### Reading and writing assignment:

**3. *The House of the Spirits* -- Isabel Allende**

**4. *Like Water for Chocolate* -- Laura Esquivel**

Many novelists explore the various and mysterious facets of the human condition through the literary device of magical realism. Often the purpose of using magical realism is to reveal a truth about the complexities and paradoxes concerning what it means to be human.

After carefully reading these two novels, write a single, unified essay (around four pages) with close to equal words devoted to each text. In your essay, explore how each author's use of magical realism contributes to the meaning of each work as a whole. You will certainly want to read this internet resource, and include quotations from in your paper: Internet resource: [http://www.kwls.org/littoral/michael\\_woods\\_key\\_note\\_address/](http://www.kwls.org/littoral/michael_woods_key_note_address/) .

DO NO CUT AND PASTE FROM THE INTERNET. USE MLA CITATION STYLE.

You will be comparing and contrasting the purposes and effects of each author's use of magical realism. Be sure to include textual support (quotations) to illustrate your ideas. Be sure to structure your essay according to standard essay format: a thesis statement at the end of your introductory paragraph, **specific** supporting details from each text in your body paragraphs (including relevant quotations from the works, using page citations), and a concluding paragraph beginning with an intensified thesis statement. Use appropriate transitional devices to ensure coherence. Use the quotations guide on the back for including quotations in your essay.

**Because you will need quotations, mark significant sections of each work as you read.** The tone of your paper should be persuasive, so be sure to support your thesis (**WITHOUT** using first person -- ~~I think, I feel, I believe, in my opinion, or in this writer's opinion~~).

**DOUBLE-SPACE ALL TYPED WORK--12-point font, Times New Roman or equivalent, one-inch margins on all four sides. NO COVER SHEETS or PLASTIC FOLDERS, PLEASE!**

In addition to the essay, compile a list of **twenty-five new-to-you vocabulary** words and their definitions from the five works. This assignment is **due the first day of school** in the fall.

**Essays and vocabulary will not be accepted after the first day of school in August, 2012.**

**AVOID PLOT SUMMARY.**

**DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.**

**Above all, read thoughtfully and enjoy.**