Edith Hamilton Study Questions

Part I: Chapters 1-2: Fill in the chart using the information in chapter 1

Greek Name (Roman Name)	Parents	Area of Control	Symbol, Animal, Plant	Personality Traits
Zeus (Jupiter)		The lord of the sky, Rain-god, and the Cloud-gatherer	thunderbolt	Falls in love with one woman after another; sneaky;
	Cronus and Rhea			Jealous
		The sea	Trident; horse	Earth-shaker
Hades (Pluto)		Underworld; wealth; and precious metals		
	Zeus	Goddess of Wisdom		Gray-eyed
Apollo				
Artemis (Diana)				
	Zeus and Maia	Messenger of the gods		
	Zeus and Hera			Hateful; violent; barbaric
Hephaestus (Vulcan)		God of smiths	Fire and precious metals	

Greek Name (Roman Name)	Parents	Area of Control	Symbol, Animal, Plant	Personality Traits
	Cronus and Rhea		The home; the hearth	
	Cronus and Rhea	Goddess of corn and agriculture; an earth goddess		
Dionysus (Bacchus)		God of wine; and earth god		

Part I Continued

Before beginning these questions, make sure you have filled in the chart for Part I The Olympians

Chapter Three: How the World and Mankind Were Created

Night and **Erebus** were the first two children of **Chaos**.
Who was their child?
What's Hamilton's theory about the personification of the Earth and Heaven?
What sprang from the blood of the injured Heaven?

Why does Zeus eventually overthrow **Cronus**?
How does Rhea fool Cronus?
How does Zeus rescue his siblings?
What happens to the stone that faked Cronus out?

Who helps Cronus in the war?
Who are Zeus' allies?
How does Zeus' punish his enemies after they lose?
Who is **Atlas** and what was his fate? Who then must Zeus fight to become undisputed world champion?

How was man created?
What do **Prometheus**' and **Epimetheus**' names mean and why are they apt?
What does Epimetheus do for the creatures of earth that earns his reputation as a scatterbrain?
How does Prometheus come to man's aid?

Describe the various ages of man, starting with gold and ending with iron. How are the men like the metal that gives their age its name?

What two gripes did Zeus have against Prometheus?
How did Zeus get revenge?
What does **Pandora'**s name mean and why is it apt?
What's in Pandora's infamous box?
Why does she open it?
What's the result?
How does Zeus personally punish Prometheus for helping mankind?
What does Prometheus know that could help Zeus in the future?
How does Prometheus escape?

Does the **Deluge** remind you of any other stories?
Why does Zeus send the flood?
How many days did it rain?
Who was saved?
How?
Why doesn't Zeus get angry at their survival?
What are they urged to do?

What solution do they hit on?
How is the new race born?

Chapter 4: Early Heroes
(Written by K.U.)

Prometheus and Io Questions
1. Who came to see Prometheus on the rock?
2. Why does Io wander in a frenzy as a mad cow?
3. Who was Argus?
4. Why does Zeus order Hermes to kill Argus?
5. How does Hermes get Argus to fall asleep so that he can kill him?
6. What river must Io get to in order for Zeus to restore her?

7 .What is the name of Zeus and Io's son? What famous mythological hero is a descendent of Io?

Europa Questions
1. How did Zeus fall in love with Europa?
2. What did Zeus change himself into when he appeared before Europa for the first time?
3. Where did Zeus take Europa after they crossed the sea?

Flower Myths
General Question
1. Why is it natural for flowers to be connected with the gods?

Narcissus flower Question
2. How did Zeus use the narcissus flower to help Hades lure Persephone?

Narcissus Questions
3. Why did Hera punish Echo?
4. How did she punish her?
5. What happened to Echo after she was rejected by Narcissus?
6. How did Nemesis punish Narcissus? How did death set Narcissus free?
7. What happened to Narcissus's body after he died?

Hyacinthus Questions
1. How did Hyacinthus die?
2. What happened to Hyacinthus after he died?

Adonis Questions
1. What is the name of Adonis's flower?
2. What 2 goddesses did Adonis split his time with?
3. What seasons did he spend with each?
4. How did Adonis die?

Part 2

Chapter 5: Cupid and Psyche (Written by E.F.)

1. Why was Venus (a goddess), so jealous of Psyche (a mortal) ?
2. What did Venus tell her son Cupid to do to Psyche?

3. How did Psyche feel about going to meet her destined husband? How did the rest of her family feel? Why?
4. Where was Psyche taken when she went to the hilltop? What was surprising about the atmosphere that she was in and the way that she was treated?
5. How did Psyche's sisters react when they went to visit her and saw all of her wealth?
6. How is that related to the story they made up about her husband?
7. What was the plan that Psyche carried out one evening? Why was she shocked at her findings?
8. Who did her husband turn out to be and what did he do/say when he saw her?
9. Psyche searched everywhere for her husband. Where did she finally find him and what was he doing there?
10. What were the four things that Venus made Psyche do out of bitterness and envy? 11. How did Psyche manage to get them done? Does her story at this point remind you of any others you might have read?
12. Why did Psyche open the box of beauty and what happened when she did?
13. How and why did Psyche become immortal?
14. Was Venus satisfied with this situation? Why or why not?
15. What does the name Psyche mean?

Chapter 6: Eight Brief Tales of Lovers (Written by S.M.) *Write a brief summary of what happens in the stories. Identify the following characters and/or terms the following stories. You can follow the Who? What? When? Where? Why? format to guide you in the summaries.*

Pyramus and Thisbe: Pyramus, Thisbe, mulberry tree,

Orpheus and Eurydice: Orpheus, Eurydice , music

Pygmalion and Galatea: Pygmalion, Galetea

Baucis and Philemon: Baucis, Philemon, gods/goddesses associated with their story

Endymion: Endymion, Moon

Daphne: Daphne, gods/goddesses associated

Alpheus and Arethusa: Arethusa, Alpheus

Phaethon: Phaethon's mother, Phaethon, Sun god, chariot

Pegasus and Bellerophon: Glaucus, Bellerophon's father and mother, Polyidus Pegasus, Anteia , King of Lycia

Otus and Ephialtes: Otus and Ephialtes

What gods/goddesses are associated with this story?
Daedalus: King Minos, Daedulus, Daedulus' son

Part 3

Chapter 9

Perseus
(Written by J.S.)

Identify the following characters: Perseus, Danae, King Acrisius, Medusa, Polydectes, Gray Women, Gorgons, Electryon

What did the priestess tell King Acrisius about his daughter, Danae?
Why did Acrisius refuse to kill his daughter?
What did Acrisius do to make sure that his grandson would not kill him?
Who discovered Danae and Perseus?
Why did Polydectes want to kill Perseus?
What was Hermes' plan to find the way to the nymphs of the North?
What did Hermes give to Perseus? Why was it special?
What did Athena give Perseus? How would it help him?
What gifts did the Hyperboreans give to Perseus?
Why could Perseus only kill Medusa?
Why was Andromeda being punished? What was her punishment?
What did Perseus do to the great snake? Why?

Chapter Ten

- Theseus

Idenntify the significance of the following characters
Theseus, King Minos, Ariadne, Minotaur

What were the terms for Theseus to receive his father's gifts?
Why didn't Theseus want to travel by sea?
Who was his role model?
What was his relation to him?
What was Theseus's ides of dealing with justice?
When he arrived at Athens, why was he an acknowledged hero?
Why did the King want to poison Theseus? Who's original plan was it? Why did she do this? Did Theseus become poisoned? Explain.
Why did Minos demand 14 youths and maidens? What/ who is Minotaur? What happened to these youths? What is Theseus's real intentions of offering himself?
What happened when she first saw Theseus? Who did she consult for help? What was his advice? How did Theseus kill Minotaur?

Did Ariadne make it to Athens? Why?
Why did Theseus's father kill himself? Who took over Athens?

- Hercules
  (Written by S.S.)

Identify and state the significance of: Thebes, Amphitryon, Alcmena, Zeus, Megara, Hera

Hercules was considered the greatest of all heroes in Greece except in Athens. Why did Athenians consider the greatest hero?
What happened to him after he and his wife had three sons?
What happened to his wife and three sons?
Who stopped Hercules from trying to kill himself?
Who did the priestess tell Hercules to go to? Why?
Who helped Eurystheus devise the labors?
Describe the 12 labors by including the task as well as who or what was involved.

Chapter Twelve

- **Atalanta**
  (Written by A.K. and B.B.)

Identify the following characters and explain their significance to the story: Atalanta, she-bear, 2 hunters, 2 centaurs, Calydon Boar, Melanion, Aphrodite, Golden Apples

Give a description of how Atalanta looked when she joined the Argo.
Who fell in love with her?
Who wounded the boar and how was the boar wounded?
Who finished killing the boar off?
Who opposed giving the skin to Atalanta?
Who was Meleager's mother?
How was the boar hunt the cause of Meleager's death?
What did Meleager do to them?
Who did Atalanta beat in a wrestling match?
Who did she reconcile with?
Atalanta declared that if anyone could beat her at this event, she would marry him. What was this event?