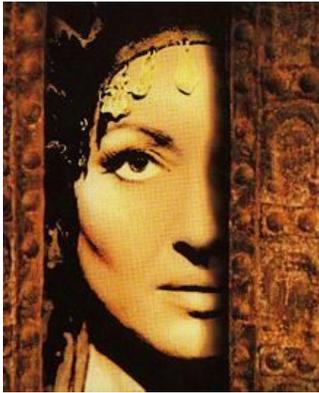


# **Medea Summer Reading & Writing Assignment: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade HONORS**

**2018**

*Medea*, Euripides (Hackett Publishing), ISBN 13: 978-0872209237

[https://www.amazon.com/Medea-Hackett-ClassicsEuripides/dp/0872209237/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1494436063&sr=1-5&keywords=medea+euripides](https://www.amazon.com/Medea-Hackett-ClassicsEuripides/dp/0872209237/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1494436063&sr=1-5&keywords=medea+euripides)



## **Reading**

Before you arrive back on campus in the fall, read and annotate *Medea* by Euripides (the Hackett Classics edition translated by Diane Arnson Svarlien). Please make sure you have the correct translation. Use the questions below to guide your reading and annotations.

## **Writing**

Your two assignments should be typed in MLA Format (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins). They are due on the first day of class and will count as your first assignment grades. **Due: Wednesday, August 29 (1st day of**

**classes)**

**I. Greek Tragedy Terms:** Research the following terms and write definitions for each in your own words.

tragic hero

*hubris*

*hamartia*

catharsis

pathos

empathy

sympathy

chorus

*nuntius*

*deus ex machina*

oracle

**II. Essay:** Choose **one** of the following prompts and write an argumentative essay with a clear thesis statement in your introduction paragraph, 2-3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph. **Use specific examples and quotations from the text to support your thoughts, and cite page numbers for your quotations in MLA format.**

1. In the introduction to our text, Robin Mitchel-Boyask explains, “Either Euripides was an exponent of traditional Greek values and beliefs, or he was a radical who subjected all aspects of his society to a withering critique” and asks, **“Do the experiences of Medea expose the oppressiveness of patriarchal Greek culture, or do they affirm every**

**negative Greek stereotype about women?”** (xviii). How would you answer Mitchel-Boyask’s question?

2. Does Medea fit the definition of a tragic heroine? Why or why not? What is Medea’s *hamartia*?
3. Is Medea insane? If she were just a crazy lady who killed her kids, would the play still be a tragic drama? (You may need to do some research about the traditional elements of a tragic drama to provide context for your answer.)
4. What is Medea’s primary reason for killing her children?
5. Examine the role of the gods in the play. Is Helios’ assistance in the ending an indication of divine support for Medea’s actions? If so, are Medea’s actions justified? (Note: Eripiides’ play is the after story of the myth of the Golden Fleece, the story of Jason and the Argonauts. Research the original myth and the characterization of the Greek gods to provide context for your argument.)