CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Bacchae and Other Plays

Euripides · *405 BC (The Bacchae) · Gilbert Murray (verse). This file is a partial collection.*

Great among men, and not unnamed am I, the Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high: so Aphrodite opens Hippolytus, the first play in this file. The hosted text is Gilbert Murray's verse, and it is partial: Hippolytus and The Bacchae, and then Women of Troy. Ion and Helen were not found as safe public-domain English for this slug. For grades 11–12. Gravity.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read a file whose catalogue title names The Bacchae, but which opens in Hippolytus, continues with Dionysus at Thebes, and then gives Women of Troy—and which the source note itself calls partial?

"Great among men, and not unnamed am I, The Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high. And wheresoe'er from Pontus"

Hippolytus, Aphrodite's opening

This file is partial, and the source note says so. It opens with Hippolytus: Aphrodite, the Cyprian, names herself and the prince who has held her least of spirits. Then comes The Bacchae: "I, Dionysus... Cadmus' daughter Semelê." Then Women of Troy. Ion and Helen are not here. Teach each play as itself, in Murray's verse, for grades 11–12, with gravity. Hippolytus, The Bacchae, and The Trojan Women also appear in other hosted files; quote the file you are in. Tact; no prurience and no spectacle.

KEY CHARACTERS

Aphrodite (the Cyprian)
Who opens the file, in Hippolytus, naming herself and the prince who has spurned her

Hippolytus
The son of the dead Amazon, who honours Artemis and holds the Cyprian least

Dionysus
Who opens The Bacchae, come home in a changed shape to Semelê's Thebes

The women of Troy
The third play; also hosted elsewhere; teach with dignity

A GODDESS NAMES HERSELF

> *"Great among men, and not unnamed am I, The Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high. And wheresoe'er from Pontus"*
>
> Hippolytus, Aphrodite's opening

Grades 11–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Partial File, Honestly

THE FILE AS A WHOLE

Coverage is Hippolytus and The Bacchae from PG #8418, and Women of Troy from #35171. Ion and Helen were checked and not included. The catalogue title names The Bacchae; the file begins with Hippolytus. Say both facts.

- Do not invent plays that are not in the file.
- Murray's verse throughout.
- For grades 11–12.
- Overlaps exist with the Medea file and with The Trojan Women and Other Plays.

> *"Great among men, and not unnamed am I, The Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high. And wheresoe'er from Pontus"*
>
> Hippolytus, Aphrodite's opening

02

The Cyprian Speaks First

HIPPOLYTUS, THE OPENING

Aphrodite is great among men, and not unnamed, in God's inmost halls. She will bless the pious heart and wreck the life that lives in stubbornness. Hippolytus, child of the dead Amazon, has held her least, and honours Artemis.

- The first lines are exact, including "The Cyprian."
- This play, not The Bacchae, opens the file.
- Teach the conflict of honours with tact. No prurience on the map.
- Quote Murray.

> *"Great among men, and not unnamed am I, The Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high. And wheresoe'er from Pontus"*
>
> Hippolytus, Aphrodite's opening

03

I, Dionysus

THE BACCHAE

Dionysus, changed in shape from god to man, walks again by Dirce's streams. Semelê, Cadmus' daughter, died here. The play is about a god who comes home and is not received. Teach the recognition and the punishment with gravity, not as a spectacle of frenzy.

- The first lines are exact, including the name "Semelê" as printed.
- Keep this file's wording if this is the file you are in; The Bacchae is also in the Medea collection.
- Tact; no prurience; no gore on the map.
- 11–12, Adult/Advanced in places.

> *"I, Dionysus, whom the brand Who bore me, Cadmus' daughter Semelê, Died here. So, changed in shape from God to man, I"*
>
> The Bacchae, Dionysus's opening

04

Women of Troy

THE THIRD PLAY

Women of Troy closes the file. The play is also hosted, as The Trojan Women, in another slug, in Murray. If you assign it, know which file you are quoting.

- Label the overlap honestly.
- Gravity; the captives need dignity, not spectacle.
- This is still Murray.
- Name the play you are in.

> *"Great among men, and not unnamed am I, The Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high. And wheresoe'er from Pontus"*
>
> Hippolytus, Aphrodite's opening

05

This Verse, and What Is Not Here

THE EDITION

Ion and Helen are not in this file. Do not teach them from this slug.

- The source note is the right authority for what is missing.
- Aphrodite's opening is the right first quotation for the file as a whole.
- Not a later film.
- Catalogue 11–12.

> *"Great among men, and not unnamed am I, The Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high. And wheresoe'er from Pontus"*
>
> Hippolytus, Aphrodite's opening

A Partial Collection · A Spurned Goddess · A God Come Home · Captive Women · Gravity

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. This file is partial: Hippolytus and The Bacchae (Murray, PG #8418) and Women of Troy (#35171). Ion and Helen are not here. The catalogue title names The Bacchae; the file opens in Hippolytus: "Great among men, and not unnamed am I, The Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high."
2. The Bacchae opens: "I, Dionysus, whom the brand Who bore me, Cadmus' daughter Semelê, Died here." Keep "Semelê." The Bacchae and Hippolytus also stand in the Medea file; Women of Troy / The Trojan Women also stands in another slug. Quote the file you are in.
3. For grades 11–12. Gravity. Tact. No prurience and no spectacle of frenzy or of captives.
4. Teach each play as itself. Do not invent plays that are not in the file.
5. Not a later film.

Quotations are verbatim from the Gilbert Murray (verse). This file is a partial collection., Project Gutenberg #8418/#35171, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-bacchae-and-other-plays/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.