



Ninth Grade Summer Reading 2021

Dear students entering 9th grade,

This coming year we will be studying World Literature across a wide variety of time periods. Our course will consider what it means to be a hero: both tragically and epically. Our texts will examine a wide range of protagonists all of whom have some traits of a hero. So when you read this summer and answer the following questions, know that it is with the mindset of considering what are the traits associated with a hero.

Summer English to-do list

Read *The Hobbit*; answer questions, proofread, and print

Learn Latin and Greek bases (see details below)

Order your books for the year

READING

1) required: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Writing for *The Hobbit*:

Consider Bilbo as a hero. Remember to actively read (take notes in the margin, use sticky notes, keep a journal, etc.) so you can recall the details, page numbers, and themes of the text. You may type or write your responses. **Our first essay in the Fall will utilize this information. This DUE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18th.**

- What does Bilbo do that makes him seem heroic? **Find three examples** with quotations and page numbers. **Please explain** what characteristics of a hero you associate with each example you have given.
- Describe *three* of the obstacles / challenges on his journey and how Bilbo responds. In what ways does Bilbo change / grow as a result of these obstacles? **Find three quotations that show his changing awareness of himself** and that prove to you that he is developing. **Quote and analyze.**

Sample response (3 for each):

Heroic:

Quote: “Her power bore down on me, but I had Telegonus, and I would not give him up, not for anything,” (251).

Analysis: Not even most gods would say no to Athena. Circe knew that Athena could easily just kill her with one strike and take Telegonus. No matter what their problems were, Telegonus was her happiness and her only child and she was not going to give him up, not even for Athena. She did not want Athena to give her a new life with a new child. Circe did not believe in trading children, so she stood up against Athena to keep her child.

Obstacles:

Quote: “So? How do you like your new handmaids?’ ‘I do not,’ I said. ‘Go to my father and see how they can be taken away,’” (181).

Analysis: Circe is already exiled to an island for all of eternity, but now a bunch of nymphs are showing up and causing a ruckus on her island. This is an obstacle for Circe because she does not want them near her. However, instead of giving up, Circe finds ways to establish her dominance by threatening the nymphs.

Latin and Greek (for new and for returning students)

Students coming from Crossroads 8th into our 9th grade already know Latin and Greek bases in Lessons 1-16 in *Everyday Words from Classic Origins* as well as a vocabulary word for each base. They should review to stay fresh. They will be re-tested on these in August.

Students joining us new in the 9th grade should learn Latin bases in Lessons 1-4 found in *Everyday Words from Classic Origins*. We will ask you to learn the other lessons in the first semester. The workbook, *Everyday Words from Classic Origins*, is available from many sellers.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

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BOOKS for our course:

- *Everyday Words from Classic Origins* (ISBN 978-0789156846). Purchase this workbook.
- *Beowulf*, S. Heaney (ISBN 97803741111992)
- *The Odyssey*, G. Hinds (ISBN 9780763642686) Graphic novel ... please purchase this specific version
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, K. Hosseini (ISBN 9780739489505)
- *Nervous Conditions*, T. Dangarembga (ISBN 978-0954702335)
- *Othello*, Shakespeare (ISBN 978150114629)