

Ancient Literature Summer Assignment 2019

Welcome to Ancient Literature, rising freshman! We're going to have a great year uncovering the earliest stories in Western culture. Before we officially meet together as a class, please carefully read and follow the guidelines below so that you can arrive prepared on the first day of school.

This summer, rather than reading a single book and writing an essay, the traditional summer assignment for rising freshmen, we've decided to change the focus. Instead, you have a two-part assignment that emphasizes reading and encourages you to read as much and as carefully as you can.

Part I 1. Purchase the following edition of *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien: ISBN 978-0345339683. Please take care to get only this edition. It's a small (mass market) paperback pictured above. Even if you buy it in your local bookstore (not a bad idea), please be sure you're getting the right copy!

2. Read and enjoy *The Hobbit*, in its entirety. With the following assignment in mind, as you read, take some notes in the margins!

3. You will be logging your readings in *The Hobbit*. Using the attached reading log file (should seem familiar to many of you), you must enter at least **five** reading logs spread evenly throughout your reading.

Part II 4. In addition to reading *The Hobbit*, I want to encourage you to read this summer—to read a lot. No matter what you actually read, reading is great for your brain, your vocabulary, and your ability to relax and enjoy summer. You can read **ANY** book, but if you're looking for inspiration check out the list of books and series of books below:

Series

I. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (by Rick Riordan) II. *Shiva Trilogy* (By Amish Tripathi) III. *The Chronicles of Narnia* (By C.S. Lewis) IV. *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* (By Michael Scott) V. *A Tale From Camelot* (By Nancy Springer) VI. *The Hunger Games* (By Suzanne Collins) VII. *Harry Potter* (By J.K. Rowling) VIII. *Divergent* (By Veronica Roth) IX. *A Wrinkle in Time* (By Madeline L'Engle)

Books

I. *The Fault in our Stars* (By John Green) II. *Looking for Alaska* (By John Green) III. *Paper Towns* (By John Green) IV. *The Graveyard Book* (By Neil Gaiman) V. *The Book Thief* (By Markus Zusak) VI. *Uprooted* (By Naomi Novik) VII. *Coraline* (By Neil Gaiman) VIII. *Just Listen* (By Sarah Dessen) IX. *Wonder* (By R.J. Palacio) X. *A Monster Calls* (By Patrick Ness) 5. Here's how it works: carefully read a book (either from the list above or not). If you like it, choose another, or read the next one in the series; if you still have time, continue reading. Please do not try to claim that you read a book or books this summer that you actually read in the past. It's not in the spirit of the assignment, which is trying to incentivize you to read now, plus I'll be able to tell that you don't really remember what you read two summers ago (and that does have the potential to hurt your grade).

6. **If you read no book beyond *The Hobbit*, it WILL NOT hurt your grade.** However, if you do read additional books, and you can talk about them with me in a one-on-one conversation this fall that demonstrates you actually read them fully and well, you can strengthen your fall trimester grade in the

class.

7. If you have any questions, big or small, please e-mail me at: atuscano@sbacademy.org

8. Have a great summer!

The Hobbit Reading Log Entry #

Date: _____

Pages Read: _____

Chapter Names: _____

What happens in this section is...

What I think about these events is...

One thing I am surprised by/interested in is...

One question I have/One thing I don't understand is...

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