



# THE MASTER'S SCHOOL

## World Literature: Grade 9 English Honors & College Placement Levels *Mrs. King*

### Summer Assignment

Welcome to The Master's Upper School! Grade 9 English will begin with a focus on the hero and world myths. We will explore ancient writings from a variety of cultures and examine their perspective of the story of humanity. Please read the following details of the Summer Assignment in items A, B, and C to complete no later than September 20, 2019.

#### **A. Biblical Hero Assignment**

As one of the oldest books in the world, the Bible provides stories of heroes and regular people who chose to walk with God, even when their culture pointed them in different directions. To begin our class Biblical Hero Unit, you will complete the following Biblical Hero Assignment no later than September 20, 2019.

1. Read & Respond to the following stories of Old Testament heroes from any Bible translation in English. (The NIV, NLT, or ESV are the easiest English translations).
  - a. The Old Testament Stories
    - Noah (Genesis Chapters 6-9)
    - Abraham (Genesis Chapters 12-22)
    - Joseph (Genesis Chapters 37-45)
    - Moses (Exodus Chapters 2-14)
    - Gideon (Judges Chapters 6-8)
    - Esther (Esther Chapters 1-8)
    - David (1 Samuel 16-17)

- b. Reader Response
  - Underline/highlight important details in each biblical story
  - Use sticky notes to acknowledge 3 specific details that identify each character as a hero
  - Use sticky notes to write 1 question you have about each hero.
  - Sticky notes should have legible writing and stick onto the page that relates to the hero
  - We will discuss each biblical hero in class; please bring this Bible to class the first week of school. If you are using an online text, you will need to print each biblical story to demonstrate your engagement with the printed text by underlining, highlighting, and placing the sticky notes on the page.
  
2. Create an Old Testament Biblical & Contemporary Hero Poster to present TWO (2) Heroes
  - a. Divide the poster board in two halves- a line down the middle- to separate each hero.
  - b. Designate each side as:
 

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL HERO      &      CONTEMPORARY HERO
  - c. Under each designated side, name one person who represents each category:
 

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL HERO	&	CONTEMPORARY HERO
Specific Name of Person		Specific Name of Person
  - d. Use words, pictures, magazine cut-outs, and other artistic details that you draw, or find in image searches that represent each hero. Place these items under the name of the corresponding hero.
  - e. Include as many specific details about each hero: who, what where, when, why? These details should reveal how each person represents a hero and what qualities identify them in this way.
  - f. Be prepared to talk about your poster with particular emphasis on comparing and contrasting each of the heroes by or before September 20.

## **B. The Epic of Gilgamesh**

1. Read pages 1-27 of *The Epic of Gilgamesh* in the online PDF available at this URL:  
<http://www.aina.org/books/eog/eog.pdf>

2. Keep a Reader Response Journal about *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
  - Please use a composition notebook or spiral notebook that is not shared with another class
  - Use a NEW page to respond to each chapter by following this format (each chapter response may be multiple pages, but begin each new chapter on a clean, new page) There are a total of seven chapters:
    - a. Date of your Response at top of new page
    - b. Chapter # on top line
    - c. Summarize the main events of the chapter
    - d. Name significant characters and relationship to each other in the chapter
    - e. What heroic traits do you notice in the characters in each chapter
    - f. Make a connection to another story or text- Does this chapter remind you of another story? Provide details to support your response
    - g. \*Optional: pictures or doodle sketches that present a character or action in this chapter
  - The Reader Response Journal will be collected no later than September 20.

**3. Reading Log for all Grade 9 Students: will be collected no later than September 20.**

- Additional Reading: read for pleasure as much as possible!
- Keep a Reading Log of all the books you read. This may be a Word file (preferred) or a handwritten file on which you list all books you read over the summer. Please include the complete title and author name of each book.
- Rate each book you read with a star system:
  - 4 stars = AWESOME!
  - 3 stars = Good
  - 2 stars = satisfactory
  - 1 star = unenjoyable
- Reading Selections- **Required for students in Honors Level Honors Students MUST choose ONE of the following books to include on the Reading Log**
  1. *Till We Have Faces*, by C. S. Lewis
  2. *The Fellowship of the Ring*, by J. R. R. Tolkien
  3. *Percy Jackson* (any book from series), by Rick Riordan

- Other SUGGESTIONS for Reading Log Selections:

*The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C. S. Lewis

*Phantastes*, by George MacDonald

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, translated by J.R.R. Tolkien

*The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, by Howard Pyle

*Ender's Game* (series) by Orson Scott Card

*Wingfeather Saga* (series) by Andrew Peterson

*The Jungle Book*, by Rudyard Kipling

*Kidnapped*, by Robert Louis Stevenson

4. **Grade 9 Honors Students - Essay: will be collected no later than September 20.**

Essay Response to ONE of the books in this list:

1. *Till We Have Faces*, by C. S. Lewis
2. *The Fellowship of the Ring*, by J. R. R. Tolkien
3. *Percy Jackson* (any book from series), by Rick Riordan

Honors Students should write the Essay Response thoughtfully with multiple paragraphs using MLA format, including a proper MLA header, double-spaced, and 12 point TNR (Times New Roman) font. The essay should summarize main points of the book. Students may consider how the plot and characters relate to the following questions to guide the focus of their writing:

Who acts heroically in this story? What Christian themes are evident in the story? How does the story compare to a film version of the same story? What themes are evident in the story and how do these themes present a meaningful message for readers?