



June 2021

Summer Reading for 9th Grade Combo English & History

Dear Future High School Student:

Summer is a wonderful time to read, as we have time to think and enjoy the literature and new ideas to which we are exposed. Additionally, reading keeps our vocabulary, language usage, and understanding/analytical skills honed for the next school year. Take advantage of this relaxing time of the year to get acquainted with the classic works of Homer and Gombrich which we will be studying in the next school year.

In preparation for the 9th grade Combo course, please complete the following two tasks:

1. ***A Little History of the World By E.H.Gombrich***
 - a. Read the following chapters: 1, 7, 27, 29, 33-36, 38-40.
 - b. Choose at least four additional chapters that stand out to you based on the descriptions in the table of contents. (In total, you will have read 15 chapters)
 - c. Create a collage that includes the following:
 1. One quote that stands out to you for each chapter with page number
 2. One image/drawing that links to the quote you chose

It is up to you how to organize the collage (i.e. in order of chapters, chronological order of events, thematically, in order of importance of the events). However, quotes and corresponding images should be next to each other.

2. ***The Odyssey by Homer. Must be the Fagle translation published by Penguin Classics.*** If ordering from Amazon: **ISBN-13:** 978-0143039952. *Be sure to read the poetry version, not prose.* Read chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 12. Use the contextual information about Epic Poetry to complete the assignment below.

Epic Poems and the 6 Epic Elements

The Odyssey is one of the most well-known epic poems that scholars continue to study and translate to this very day. An **Epic Poem** is a lengthy narrative poem that gives an account of great and heroic feats of characters from the past. We will be studying what an Epic Poem is in more detail when we meet in September. In order to build a foundational knowledge of Epic Poetry review the following **Epic Elements**:

1. **The Hero:** The hero of the story is of significance to the nation from which the story comes. The Hero may be a known figure through a historical and/or legendary context.



2. **Multiple Settings:** The Epic Narrative takes place in different places. This includes stories that characters relate to each other from the past as a part of the narrative.
3. **Superhuman Strength and/or Valor and Courage:** The Hero must display courageous behavior in compromising situations.
4. **Epic Style of Writing:** Because Epic Poems were often recited, specific stylistic elements were used to help for memory. Two such techniques include:
 - a. **Epithets:** A repeated phrase associated with a character (Ex. sparkling-eyed Athena)
 - b. **Stock Phrase:** A repeated phrase associated with setting (time or place → Ex. Dawn with her rose-red fingers)
5. **Divine Intervention:** Divine or supernatural forces interfere in the affairs of humans.
6. **Omniscient Narration:** The narrator of the Epic Poem is often all-knowing of the condition and actions of all the characters.

Assignment:

As you read the chapter selection identify the Epic Elements defined above. Create an Epic Wheel ([template](#)) in which you provide a quote and/or example for each Epic Element based on your reading of *The Odyssey*. Include a visual representation as well. Refer to the questions below to help guide the design of your Epic Wheel.

The Hero

- Who do you consider to be the hero of the story?
- Find a quotation that indicates the historical significance he has or legendary action he commits.

Multiple Settings

- Choose 1 quotation for 2 **different** settings (so 2 quotations total).

Superhuman Strength - Valor/Courage

- Choose one quotation in which the Hero displays either superhuman strength, valor, or courage.

Epic Style of Writing

- Choose 1 epithet and 1 stock phrase.
- Include the number of times you saw this phrase repeated.
- Draw an image of the epithet and stock phrase.

Divine Intervention

- Quote an example of the gods interfering with human affairs.

Omniscient Narration

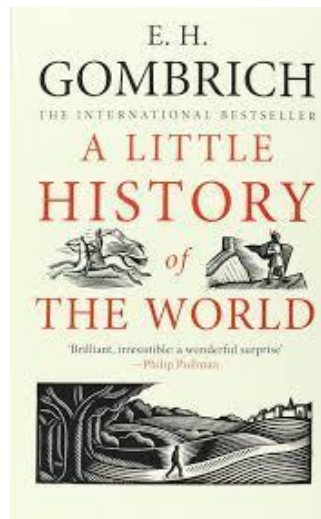
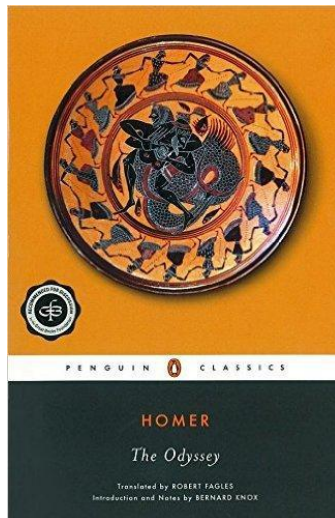
- LEAVE THIS ONE BLANK. Include a slot for Omniscient Narration but leave it blank. We will fill this one together!

**Both of these books will lay a foundation for the 9th grade combo curriculum; therefore it is imperative that the assignments are completed prior to the start of the school year. The first unit of study will be*



based on the summer work and an assessment should be expected. **You must purchase your own copy of these books.**

Your assignment will be due as soon as classes begin in September.



Have a pleasant summer and see you in the fall! Happy reading!