

Rising Eighth Grade Summer 2020 Reading List

This fall the eighth grade class will continue their great adventure through ancient Literature. These recommended readings will equip them well for the challenges and glories ahead!

Required Books:

Selections from *Bulfinch's Greek and Roman Mythology: The Age of Fable* by Thomas Bulfinch

Please read the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 19: Hercules–Hebe and Ganymede,

Chapter 24: Orpheus and Eurydice

Chapter 27: The Trojan War,

Chapter 28: The Fall of Troy–Return of the Greeks, Orestes, and Electra,

Chapter 29: Adventures of Ulysses–The Lotus-Eaters–The Cyclops–Circe–Sirens–Scylla and Charybdis–Calypso

Chapter 30: The Phaeacians–Fate of the Suitors

Chapter 31: Adventures of Aeneas–The Harpies–Dido–Palinurus

Bulfinch's Greek and Roman Mythology: The Age of Fable is a classic collection of ancient Greek and Roman mythology, plays, and epic poems. If you are interested in adding a beautiful copy to your library, consider this leather-bound book that includes all three of Bulfinch's original titles: *The Age of Fable*, *The Age of Chivalry*, and *The Legends of Charlemagne*. (ISBN: 1626861692). However, to complete this summer's reading, this paperback is more than sufficient (ISBN: 0486411079).

In addition to Bulfinch, please read CS Lewis' great sea adventure, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. In this, the fifth book in The Chronicles of Narnia series, the story follows King Caspian's journey through the Eastern Seas to find the seven missing lords of Narnia and seek out Aslan's country. Like the other Narnia chronicles, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* combines Christian symbolism with elements of fantasy stories, but this particular book also introduces motifs from great travel literature and adventure stories. When they read Homer's *Odyssey*, students will recognize that Odysseus and his crew, like Caspian and his friends, embark on a sea voyage and encounter a variety of fantastic places and dangers that hinder their progress; unlike Odysseus, Caspian is not trying to get home, but to find the end of the world. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* is rich in Christian symbolism and is a stepping stone for students to begin to delve into the principles of Christianity. If they have not read the entire Chronicles of Narnia Series, this would be a great time! Focus on the Family has an excellent audio book dramatic reading of the series for free online! Check it out!

Additional Suggested Reading

***Mythology* by Edith Hamilton.** Reading the following stories will equip students with knowledge of the background stories of the Trojan War before beginning to read *The Iliad* in eighth grade literature class:

- The heroes of the Trojan War, including the Judgment of Paris
- The Trojan War
- The House of Atreus

***Peace Child* by Don Richardson.** This is an adventure bristling with cannibals, jungles, and heart-chilling events. It is a true story of missionaries sent to minister among cannibals in New Guinea who venerate treachery. How can the truth of the gospel penetrate such hardened hearts? Read how God provides Don Richardson with an incredible opportunity to speak to the souls of these savages, and how the “peace child” is used to bring salvation to a large number of people.

***Joni: An Unforgettable Story* by Joni Eareckson Tada and Billy Graham.** The amazing story of how one young woman overcame her disability through courage and faith.

***Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to end Slavery* by Eric Metaxas.** This story displays how one man fundamentally changed humanity’s attitude towards human suffering.

***Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot OR *Jim Elliot: One Great Purpose* by Janet and Geoff Benge.**