

Rising Ninth Grade Summer 2020 Reading List

Required Book For English:

Students will need their own copy of *The Lord of the Rings* to read, pore over, dig into, mark up, underline, and love. It is one story, one book, but most often divided for publication into three volumes: *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*. Any edition of this oft-printed book will do, but it may be easiest and least expensive to find the paperback set: ISBN-10: 0345538374.

PLEASE NOTE: Students must own *all three* volumes of the book. Please buy them all at once to avoid mix-ups or delays trying to buy missing volumes later in the year.

***The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, by JRR Tolkien.** Our journey into the great mythical and poetic literature of the West starts here. This first volume is the students' summer reading; *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King* will be read during the school year as part of the ninth grade English curriculum.

Be sure to read the Prologue that precedes Chapter 1. Whether you have read *The Hobbit* or not, this introduction will be helpful to set the stage for what's to come—a good reminder of what hobbits are, what they are like, and how the One Ring around which the story centers was found.

Required Book For History:

***The Lantern Bearers (The Roman Britain Trilogy)* by Rosemary Sutcliff.** Set in Roman Britain during the fifth century, it is the story of a British Roman's life after the final withdrawal of Roman troops (around 410 AD) and the invasion of the Saxons into southern Britain. The setting is the time of the "real" King Arthur and the wars between the native Romano-Celts and the Saxons. *The Lantern Bearers* is a compelling story inviting the reader into the world of the first Germanic migratory tribes and will set the scene for ninth grade history's introduction into the world of the falling Roman Empire and the beginning of the early Middle Ages.

Be ready for a class discussion and a quiz when you get back to school.

The following is a list of recommended additional reading:

***On the Shoulders of Hobbits: The Road to Virtue with Tolkien and Lewis*, by Louis Markos.** This is a readable, inspiring introduction to the larger project of "re-mythologizing" Western literature that both Professor Tolkien and CS Lewis were engaged in. Markos invites us to be inspired by the characters of Narnia and Middle-earth to live lives of virtue.

***Odd and the Frost Giants*, by Neil Gaiman.** A whimsical and well-written story set squarely in the cold, northern world of the Norse gods and giants, this short, illustrated tale will give students a taste of the chilly climes and fantastic adventures that await in medieval literature.

***Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, by Avi OR *The Seeing Stone*, by Kevin Crossley-Holland.** Either of these two un-put-down-able (it's okay—it's okay—English teachers are allowed to make up words) will thrust readers right into the midst of everyday life in the Middle Ages.