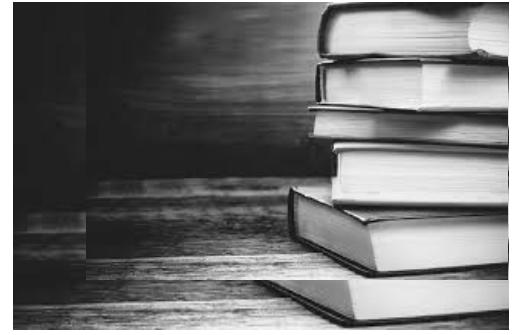


10th Grade Summer Reading

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. —Joseph Addison

Incoming 10th Graders should read the following book and complete the summer reading assignment. This will prepare them for class activities at the beginning of the school year.

King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table by Roger Lancelyn Green



Read and Annotate: Annotating is a tool of active reading which helps you understand and ask questions of a text. Underline key information, write notes about thoughts that occur to you in the margins, ask questions, and seek out answers. Use a pencil to have a conversation with the novel as you write.

Write a 4-5 paragraph essay: In ninth grade, you studied the ancient world in history and read its tragedies and epics in literature. In tenth grade, we will spend time looking into the medieval world which arose in Western Europe after the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Many have argued that the medieval world was a synthesis of the Roman and Christian worlds, along with the cultures of the non-Roman tribes such as the Germanic people.

For your topic, choose one of the following questions:

1. Heroism: How does the heroic ideal embodied by King Arthur and his knights compare to the heroic ideal of the ancient world? How is it similar to and in what ways is it different from Achilles or Aeneas?
2. Tragedy: The story of King Arthur is both an epic and a tragedy. How do the causes of the final tragedy (the fall of Logres) compare to the causes of tragedy in the ancient Greek plays you have read? Does the view of human nature and actions change between the ancient tragedies and the story of Arthur? Does this tragedy show a new set of influences?
3. Individual vs. Community: Ancient literature is often concerned with the competing goods of the individual (the one) and the community (the many). How does this relationship between the individual and community in *King Arthur* compare to that in ancient literature that you have read? You might look at the way that the religious aspect of the book is in competition and often conflict with the knightly ideal. How does the salvation of the individual soul fit into the public and communal duties of the knight?

Essay Requirements:

1. Essay must be written in Times New Roman, double-spaced, in 12 pt. Font. New paragraphs are indented with no extra space. Quotes are no more than three lines of text and properly cited with the author's last name and the page number (MLA-style citations).
2. Essay must have an introduction, two or three body paragraphs with topic sentences clearly supporting the thesis, and a conclusion.
3. Every body paragraph must have at least one quote from the book, properly cited, which proves your topic sentence.

Additional Summer Reading Suggestions (Not Required):

- *Becoming Charlemagne: Europe, Baghdad, and the Empires of A.D. 800* by Jeff Sypeck
- *The Concise History of the Crusades* by Thomas Madden (2014 version)
- *Whose Body?* (The Lord Peter Wimsey Series) by Dorothy L. Sayers
- *Carry On, Jeeves* by P.G. Wodehouse
- *The Decameron* by Boccaccio
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte