

Classic Literature Summer Reading 2024

Welcome to Classic Literature. Through this course, we will go on a journey through time starting with one of the earliest written stories, Gilgamesh, working our way up to roughly the 16th century. We will spend our time studying the mythologies of the world, looking for connections among the stories we read. Many of the stories you are familiar with, *Harry Potter*, *Star Wars*, and Disney all follow the same Hero's Journey format that was created by Joseph Campbell.

Please contact me via email over the summer with any questions you might have about the assignment or the class. I look forward to going on a new adventure with you.

Ms. Ditrich

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"We have not even to risk the adventure alone, for the heroes of all time have gone before us. The labyrinth is thoroughly known. We have only to follow the thread of the hero's path, and where we had thought to find an abomination, we shall find a god. And where we had thought to slay another, we shall slay ourselves. Where we had thought to travel outward, we will come to the center of our own existence. And where we had thought to be alone, we will be with all the world." --Joseph Campbell

THE READINGS: You will be reading two books over the summer to prepare you for Classic Literature.

A. Everyone Reads:

The Hero with a Thousand Faces by Joseph Campbell
[ISBN-13: 978-1577315933].

B. Everyone picks ONE of the novels listed below:

- *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien
[ISBN-13: 978-0544003415]
- *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman
[ISBN-13: 978-0062572233]
- *Circe* by Madeline Miller
[ISBN-13: 978-0316556323]

PLEASE do NOT substitute watching the movie version of your book in place of reading the novel. There are noticeable differences. Do not start the year this way. In addition, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in any way of your assignment will receive an automatic zero, with no chance to redo the assignment, and other penalties. All work must be original.

Annotation Assignment for *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*: READ THIS BOOK FIRST!

- Buy Post-It Notes. Your Post-It Notes must be 3 x 3 inches or larger.
 - You must place at **least 20 completed notes** in your book.
 - You must have at least one Post-it Note for each of the steps listed below including the chapter title. This gives you a minimum of 20.
- As you read, you should respond to the text on the Post-It Notes.
 - Label each Post-it clearly with what step/chapter you are defining. Use one side of the Post-it for the definition and the other side for the example given by

Campbell. For chapters 1, 2, and 3 I would like you to summarize the overall key points of each.

b. Make sure you are writing legibly. If I cannot read your handwriting, you will not receive credit for the annotation.

C. Format of Notes:

a. Label each note with the stage of the Monomyth (ex: Supernatural Aid).

b. Include the page number you are responding to, in the lower right corner. This is to help you in case the note falls out of the book and when you are citing text.

c. Include the number of the note in the upper left corner (ex: is this #1 or #33). This will help you keep count of how many notes you have completed.

D. Turn in your book with Post-It Notes on the first day of school.

Chapter 1 "Departure"

1. "The Call to Adventure"
2. "The Refusal of the Call"
3. "Supernatural Aid"
4. "The Crossing of the First Threshold"
5. "The Belly of the Whale"

Chapter 2 "Initiation"

6. "The Road of Trials"
7. "The Meeting with the Goddess"
8. "Woman as the Temptress"
9. "Atonement with the Father"
10. "Apotheosis"
11. "The Ultimate Boon"

Chapter 3 "Return"

12. Refusal of the Return
13. "The Magic Flight" •
14. "Rescue from Without"
15. "The Crossing of the Return Threshold"
16. "Master of Two Worlds"
17. "Freedom to Live"

Annotation Assignment for your choice novel:

A. Buy Post-It Notes. Your Post-It Notes must be 3 x 3 inches or larger.

1. You must place at **least 30 completed notes** in your book.
2. You should spread the notes out evenly throughout the entire book. You should have as many in the beginning as you do at the end. One Post-It Note every few pages is a good way to make sure that you cover the whole book.

B. As you read, you should respond to the text on the Post-It Notes.

1. Each note should be 2-3 sentences long, and it should be detailed.
2. Annotate the novel according to what stage of the Hero's Journey your main character is in (see above assignment for *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*) along with the evidence [quote(s)] that demonstrates this. I am looking to see that you have read the book and can make thoughtful and original responses to it.
3. Use both sides of the Post-it to add the quote and/or detail.
4. Make sure you are writing legibly. If I cannot read your handwriting, you will not receive credit for the annotation.

C. Format of Notes:

1. Label each note with the stage of the Monomyth.
2. Include the page number you are responding to, in the lower right corner. This is to help you in case the note falls out of the book and when you are citing text.

3. Include the number of the note in the upper left corner (ex: is this #1 or #33). This will help you keep count of how many notes you have completed.
4. Turn in your book with Post-It Notes on the first day of school.

NOTE ON THE SUMMER READING

Summer reading assignments are essential to Classic Literature as they are the foundation for the rest of the year. Be prepared to compose an essay on the first day of school. You may NOT choose to skip annotating the texts. This is the summer reading assignment and therefore it must be completed. If you choose to come to class the first day without the completed readings and annotations, it will severely impact your grade in addition to placing you in the unfortunate position of still having to complete the summer assignments as well as the rest of the readings and projects. You cannot receive higher than 70% on the essay without direct quotations from the book and you will not be able to use either book when you write the essay. As stated above, all annotations must be handwritten on standard size Post-It Notes (3x3). They may not be typed. They may not be written or printed on sheets of paper.

NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Every assignment you do in school is meant to measure your knowledge of something or your ability to do something. The grade you receive on the assignment should reflect that knowledge or ability, but an assignment cannot truly measure your knowledge or ability if you have not done your own work. The summer reading assignment should be the product solely of your thoughts, effort, and ideas. Do not use websites. Sites like Wikipedia, Shmoop, and SparkNotes serve a purpose, but using them for an assignment like this one is dishonest. Furthermore, your teachers are not interested in what SparkNotes says. We are interested in your ideas, interpretations, and arguments. We want to know what you think. Your ideas are far more interesting than the ones regurgitated again and again on the internet, and looking at those websites will color your thinking and prevent you from developing your own ideas. Although there will doubtless be collaborative assignments throughout the school year, this is not one of them. Do your own work. You may not in any way work with someone else on this assignment. If your annotations show any evidence of your having copied from a website, a classmate, or any other source, you will receive a zero on the essay.

SUPPLY LIST

Please come to class with the following supplies:

- 2 pencils
- Blue or black ink pens
- Package of highlighters with at least 5 colors
- Fine-lined colorful markers (Sharpie, Flair, Crayola) again with at least 5 colors
- Post-it Notes 3x3
- Your books