

✧ PEDDIE SCHOOL ✧

Summer Reading List: Freshman Humanities -- Ancient World

In the fall term of Humanities, students will study the ancient Mediterranean civilizations of Mesopotamia, Israel, and Greece, among others. To help familiarize incoming freshmen with these peoples and places, new students are invited to choose ONE or more of the following books to read this summer. Please read, enjoy, and learn from some great literature!

[The Trojan War, Barry Strauss](#)

In this study, Strauss combines literature and archaeology to give readers a glimpse of the actual history behind this legendary and much-fabled war, made famous by Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*. Strauss is a historian interested in investigating the political intrigue that may have motivated the 3000-year old Trojan War.

[Troy, Adele Geras](#)

For a more dramatic take on the Trojan War, pick up a copy of this fictional account of the men and women behind the royal families fighting the war. *Troy* follows the romantic travails of two young sisters, servants in royal palace of Troy, all the while capturing the political tension and emotional distress caused by the war with Greece.

[The Secret Chord, Geraldine Brooks](#)

One of history's most famous, yet elusive, kings, King David of Israel is the focus of this historical novel. Brooks traces the arc of his life, from his rise from obscurity to his feats and failures as king. Brooks explores not only David's own journey, but the perspectives of those closest to him.

[Feast of Sorrow: A Novel of Ancient Rome, Crystal King](#)

If you liked *Downton Abbey*, you'll love this fictional "upstairs/downstairs" tale of a Roman household at the time of Caesar Augustus. Follow renowned chef, Thrasius, as he navigates the intrigues and drama of an ancient Roman family adjusting to a new way of life under imperial Rome.