

HONORS ENGLISH ONE SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS

Students who are enrolled in Honor English are required to complete all three parts, as outlined below, before the start of the school year.

PART ONE: THE ILIAD

Text: The Iliad, Homer, Translated by Robert Fagles

Please use the Fagles Edition only. This is available at the NHHS library until June 8, 2012. It is also available through the Hunterdon County library.

1. Read this summary of The Iliad.
2. Read Books 1, 18, 22 and 24 of The Iliad.
3. Select one activity from each Book section to complete. Responses should be typed, size 12 Arial, single spaced

Book 1 "The Quarrel of Achilles and Agamemnon"

Activities:

- a. Homer presents both sides of the argument between Achilles and Agamemnon. Each character has valid parts to the argument, but each also has faults in their arguments. Choose the one character that you agree with more and explain why. Then compare that argument to any other argument discussed in The Iliad. Which character did you side with in this second argument and why.
- b. Achilles' primary objective for participating in the war is to prove himself to be the best, most honorable Greek fighter. Is Hector similarly motivated? Are modern heroes similarly concerned with proving themselves honorable? Compare Achilles, Hector, and a modern hero of your choice. Describe their actions, and explain whether or not they are "honorable."
- c. An epic hero is usually of noble birth and demonstrates bravery, superhuman strength, success in battle, and a desire to be famous for his/her deeds to have a sort of immortality from fame. Explain how Achilles, Hector, and another character from another piece of literature that you have read each fit this definition.

Book 18, "The Arming of Achilles"

Activities:

- a. Homer's description of Achilles' shield is an ekphrasis, an extended description of a work of art, real or imaginary, used to focus attention on the symbolic meaning and reflect on the main story. Identify the positive and negative images portrayed on the shield that represent the totality of Greek life. Then compare the shield to the Trojan life. And finally, compare/contrast this image of life to the perception of life presented in Shakespeare's Macbeth quote:
"Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,

Signifying nothing.”

- b. Both Hektor and Achilles accept their fates and make a conscious decision to accept their imminent deaths, which makes them heroic in the eyes of ancient Greeks. Explain whether or not modern society considers people who consciously confront death to be heroic.
- c. Both Hektor and Achilles live in the Greek culture that expects males to fight to win glory for their families and themselves. However, they react differently to this warrior code. Explain which hero is characterized as being more human and how their reasons differ for winning glory. How are heroes today perceived? Give a modern example and an explanation.

Book 22, “The Death of Hektor,” and Book 24, “Achilleus and Priam”

Activities:

- a. Analyze the scene between Achilles and Priam and explain the ways it shows their common bonds of humanity. Give another example from The Iliad that illustrates that enemies have more in common than opposite.
- b. Two great cultural expectations in Greek life were hospitality (xenia) and ritual funerals for the warrior dead. Explain the difficult process of hospitality inside Achilles’ tent and the burial expectations and rituals for Hektor. Find two other examples of these cultural expectations in The Iliad and explain the expectations and emotions that are demonstrated.

PART TWO: NOVEL

Select any novel from the reading list and write a review.

PART THREE: SHORT STORY

- 1. Read this biography of Edgar Allan Poe.
- 2. Read the short story “The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe at this website.
- 3. Take notes on the story using this note taking grid.
- 4. Review this vocabulary list.