



Sophomore Class Summer Reading, 2020-21

Poplar Campus

Dear Future Sophomores and Parents of The City School,

I hope you have a wonderful and restful summer break. Included in this letter is your summer reading assignment for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. The purpose of this assignment is to keep your mind sharp, prepare you for the upcoming school year, and to be a source of enjoyment for you! When we allow them to, books have the power to transport us to other worlds, worlds which satisfy our desire to be entertained and teach us truths about the world God has given us.

For this year's summer reading assignment, **rising sophomores will be assigned one book collectively.** Students are by no means limited to one book, and we encourage students who want to be fully prepared for the next level of English to read more than the minimum requirement.

As an entry point into the medieval world of literature, each student is asked to read a wonderful book modeled after the medieval epic, *The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien. After you have read the book, you are responsible for answering the questions noted below. (Also, be prepared to take a reading test upon your return to school.)

We look forward to seeing you on campus and have a wonderful summer!

***The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien (required reading)**

For *The Hobbit*, answer the following questions in detail.

Please answer in at least one full paragraph (6-8 complex sentences) per question.

1. Much of your freshman year was dedicated to discussing the idea of the hero. Tolkien chooses an unlikely hero for his novel, Bilbo Baggins. How is Bilbo a hero? What qualities does he possess that demonstrate that he is a hero of sorts? Construct a guiding thesis ("Bilbo is a hero of sorts because....") and then give specific details from the story to support your answer.
2. Every good character through literature must undergo some sort of change. How does Bilbo grow or change throughout *The Hobbit*? Cite three specific places in the book where you see him undergo some change. What causes the change and what evidence is there that he is different after the experience?