

Summer Reading List for Rising 9th Graders

You are responsible for reading two of the following books this summer and **bringing your books to school on the first day of class**. One of the books you read must be *Phantastes* by George MacDonald. You are free to choose the second book. Please choose a book you have not read before. These books vary in length and reading level. Explore in a library or read book descriptions on a book seller's website to help you determine which books you will enjoy. Happy reading, and have a wonderful summer!

Historical Literature

The Odyssey, Homer (new students are strongly recommended to try this; the Emily Wilson translation is especially approachable)

A Shakespeare play, including *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear*, *The Tempest*, and *Macbeth* (an edition with good footnotes is recommended)

Philosophy and Religion

The Screwtape Letters, CS Lewis

The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel

The Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan

Fairy Tales and Mythology

Phantastes, George MacDonald

The Blue Fairy Book, or any color fairy book by Andrew Lang

Mythology, by Edith Hamilton (especially for those unfamiliar with Greek & Roman mythology)

The Children of Odin, Padraic Colum (for those interested in Norse mythology)

The Silmarillion, JRR Tolkien (a mythology for the world of *The Lord of the Rings*)

Haroun and the Sea of Stories by Salman Rushdie

The Death of King Arthur by Peter Ackroyd

Fantasy/Historical Fiction

Eagle of the Ninth or other Roman Britain novels by Rosemary Sutcliffe

The Horse and His Boy by C.S. Lewis

The Dark is Rising, or other books in the series, by Susan Cooper

A book from the Brother Cadfael series, by Ellis Peters (mysteries solved by a medieval monk)

The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle

The Perilous Gard Elizabeth Marie Pope

Lavinia, by Ursula Le Guin (the story of the *Aeneid* from Lavinia's perspective; has a challenging narrative style)

The *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien (please complete at least one)

The Fellowship of the Ring

The Two Towers

The Return of the King