

## **Honors English 4: British Literature** **Summer Reading 2023 - 2024**

Honors English 4 is an accelerated course open to students who have demonstrated more sophisticated reading and language abilities than their peers. Honors students should be able to discern multiple levels of meaning in language and literature. Students should be independent learners and will be expected to read class texts at home.

The course is heavily essay-based, requiring students to read and analyze a variety of literary works. Students are expected to connect them to the time in which they were written, enhancing understanding of both the work at hand and the influences which may have shaped the author's thoughts. Summer reading is the beginning of this process.

### **Summer Reading**

Summer reading assignments are due on the first day of class. Each section of the summer reading will be graded separately, then averaged together and used as a test grade.

Summer reading is used first as a means of provoking immediate thought, discussion, scholarship, and writing at the start of the school year. It is also used as a means of increasing the literary base which is fundamental to the success of every honors student. The initial work completed during the summer will be utilized as a diagnostic tool to help determine the level of a student's skills and abilities at the beginning of the school year.

Students are required to complete both parts 1 and 2 IN ADDITION TO the all-school summer reading. If there are any questions, please email Mr. Raheb ([mraheb@killinglyschools.org](mailto:mraheb@killinglyschools.org)) or Ms. Gallie ([jgallie@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jgallie@killinglyschools.org)).

### **Part 1: Readings and Notetaking**

This course focuses on British literature, although some American literature will be included. Western literature (i.e. a vast body of literary works from ancient times to the present, written in Indo-European languages) must be regarded as a continuum. The earliest works of Western literature, such as Greek mythology and Hebrew religious texts, inform later texts and culminate in British literature. Students will be expected to rigorously read and dissect early works in Western literature before embarking on further study.

#### **Mythology by Edith Hamilton**

Over centuries, Britain suffered a series of changes in rulership; the Roman Empire, various Germanic tribes, Anglo-Saxons, and Normans are included among these. Britain inherited some Greek and Roman traditions during the prolonged stay of Roman troops on its soil. Therefore, British literature is rife with allusions to mythological texts.

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, a classic, provides detailed, concise versions of Greek and Roman tales of gods and heroes. These tales will form the basic body of Classical knowledge which students must utilize to understand literature. Print copies of the text are available for use. You must read the following selections and complete the assignments in a notebook.

1. Read pg. 24-46: "The Gods." Hamilton writes the names of various deities in capital letters (e.g. "BACCHUS"). Copy every name in capital letters, then provide a description of each deity/character in complete sentences.
2. Read pg. 63-74: "How the World and Mankind Were Created." Write a summary (one page at minimum) of the events in the chapter.
3. Read pg. 178-201: "Troy." Write a summary (two pages at minimum) of its events.

### *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

*The Old Man and the Sea* was published by Ernest Hemingway, an American author, in 1952. It was Hemingway's last work. The themes of the text will act as a foil to Hamilton's *Mythology*; Hemingway lived two millennia after the Greeks composed their mythos.

There are print copies of *The Old Man and the Sea* available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please visit me in Room 3114 to pick up a copy. A digital version is also available on Project Gutenberg at this link:

<https://gutenberg.ca/ebooks/hemingwaye-oldmanandthesea/hemingwaye-oldmanandthesea-00-h.html>

1. Read Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* and answer the essay question in Part 2.

### **Part 2**

You must write an argumentative essay answering the following question:

1. Identify a symbolic creature or physical object in *The Old Man and the Sea*. Some include flying fish, birds, sailcloth, baseball, lions, eyes, and the ship's mast, amongst others. Explain what the symbol represents and how Hemingway uses the symbol to convey a central theme in the text.

Essays must be typed in MLA format (see [owl.purdue.edu](http://owl.purdue.edu)'s "MLA" section) and should use at least 3 pieces of textual evidence to justify their claims. The essay should be two pages in length at minimum. Rough drafts of the essay **MUST BE COMPLETED** by the time you return to school. You may be subject to removal from the class otherwise. We will complete peer edits in class. The revised essay will be due on the last day of the first week on which the class meets. If you are absent, the essay must be emailed to me to receive full credit. Essays will be penalized at -10 points for each day they are late.