

English Seminar: Heroes and Fiends Summer Reading

Pick One! (Or More!)

All students entering **Heroes and Fiends** should read at least one book **that you have not read before** from the following list before school begins in the fall. Please make annotations that will help you be prepared for discussion and/or writing related to the book.

NOTE: A number of these books have movie and/or television series versions. You are welcome to watch any film or tv version **AFTER** you have read the original text. If you do watch a version, make a few notes about how the director adapts/changes the text.

Choose ONE of the following titles:

The Last Unicorn by Peter S. Beagle

The Magicians by Lev Grossman

Dragonflight by Anne McCaffrey

The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart

A Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin

The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss

The Color of Magic (Discworld) by Terry Pratchett

The Lies of Locke Lamora by Scott Lynch

American Gods by Neil Gaiman

The Grace of Kings by Ken Liu

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

Assassin's Apprentice by Robin Hobb

The City of Brass by S. A. Chakrabarty

A Darker Shade of Magic by V. E. Schwab

The Eye of the World by Robert Jordan

Lord Foul's Bane by Stephen Donaldson

Dune by Frank Herbert

Black Leopard Red Wolf by Marlin James

The Fifth Season by N. K. Jemisin

Earthsea by Ursula K. LeGuin

The Way of Kings by Brandon Sanderson

The Sword of Shannara by Terry Brooks

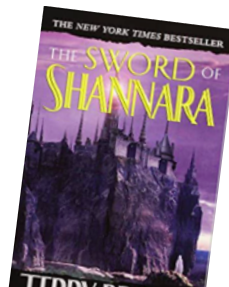
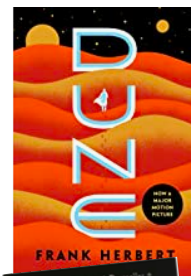
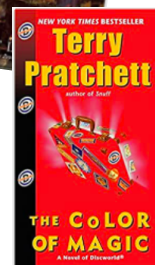
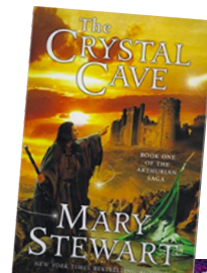
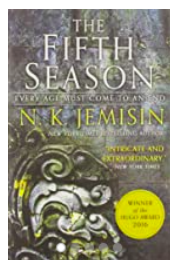
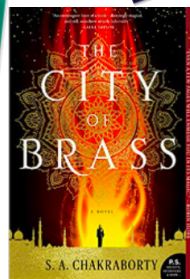
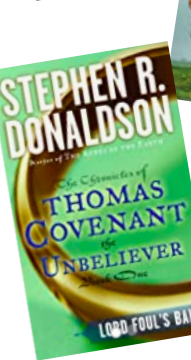
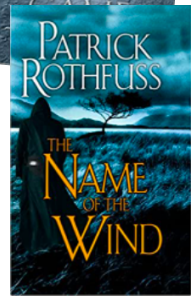
Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell by Susanna Clarke

The King of Elfland's Daughter by Lord Dunsany

The Dreaming Tree by C. J. Cherryh

The Dragonbone Chair by Tad Williams

Magician: Apprentice by Raymond E. Feist



During the first semester of Heroes and Fiends, we will explore these essential questions:

- Why and how do humans create monsters?
- What purpose do monsters serve in literature, film, art, and in life?
- What is a hero, and what does it mean to be heroic?
- How are cultural values (heroic ideals) expressed in literature through monsters and their relationships with humans?
- How are words "magic"?
- How do we "monstracize" (or make into a monster--VJB coined a word!) the "other"?
- How does mankind decide what is "good"/"right"/"human" versus "evil"/"wrong"/"monstrous"?
- What do monsters and magic teach us about being ourselves, about being human?

As you read, consider how the above essential questions are relevant to the text you select. Annotate for these big ideas as you read.

Questions: Contact Mr. Gooch: sgooch@episcopalcollegiate.org.