

Rising Eighth Grade Summer 2024 Reading List

This fall the eighth grade class will continue reading epic poetry and Tolkien's masterful adventures in Middle Earth. These recommended readings will equip them well for the challenges and glories ahead!

Required Books

***Mythology* by Edith Hamilton.** Please read:

Part Four: The Heroes of the Trojan War

Students began Hamilton's *Mythology* in seventh grade and will continue reading it to prepare for a main focus of eighth grade: the Trojan War. Using classical poets as her sources, Hamilton narrates the collective beliefs and values of the Greeks. The adventurous student can continue reading Parts 6 and 7 for additional myths, including the Norse deities.

***The Two Towers (Part 1)* by J.R.R. Tolkien**

Students will continue the journey through Middle Earth that they started in 7th grade by reading *The Two Towers* (Part 1). [Please purchase this edition of the book.](#) Frodo and the Fellowship proceed on an epic journey to destroy the Ring and overcome evil. Students should enter the fall prepared to discuss part 1 in class and confident to continue reading part 2 during the school year.

N.B. *The Lord of the Rings* is composed of six "books", aside from an introduction, a prologue and six appendices. However, the novel was originally published as three separate volumes, due to post-World War II paper shortages and size and price considerations. *The Two Towers* covers books three and four.

[The Two Towers Study Guide:](#) Please refer to this study guide for a graded assignment required on Friday, August 24

Additional Suggested Reading

***The Tale of Troy* by Roger Lancelyn Green.** The Tale of Troy is an incredible retelling of the epic saga of the Trojan War and the adventures that followed.

***Tales of the Greek Heroes* by Roger Lancelyn Green.** This is an incredible retelling of the marvelous myths of Ancient Greece. This book serves as a great review and supplement to what was studied in seventh grade.

***The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis.** In this, the fifth book in The Chronicles of Narnia series, the story follows King Caspian's journey through the Eastern Seas to find the seven missing lords of Narnia and seek out Aslan's country. Like the other Narnia chronicles, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* combines Christian symbolism with elements of fantasy stories, but this particular book also introduces motifs from great travel literature and adventure stories.

***Peace Child* by Don Richardson.** This is an adventure bristling with cannibals, jungles, and heart-chilling events. It is a true story of missionaries sent to minister among cannibals in New Guinea who venerate treachery. How can the truth of the gospel penetrate such hardened hearts? Read how God provides Don Richardson with an incredible opportunity to speak to the souls of these savages, and how the "peace child" is used to bring salvation to a large number of people.

***Joni: An Unforgettable Story* by Joni Eareckson Tada and Billy Graham.** The amazing story of how one young woman overcame her disability through courage and faith.

***Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* by Eric Metaxas.** This story displays how one man fundamentally changed humanity's attitude towards human suffering.

***Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot OR *Jim Elliot: One Great Purpose* by Janet and Geoff Benge.** These books tell the true story of five missionaries who were killed when bringing the gospel to Auca Indians, and their wives who follow in their footsteps as messengers of hope.

***D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* by Ingri and Edgar D'Aulaire.** This book is one of the best introductions to the Greek world. Its beautiful illustrations and narrative stories paint a picture of the origin of the Western tradition in which we now live. Knowing these stories will help students embark on their journey into the Greek and Roman world of mythology and appreciate the culture we have inherited.

***Bulfinch's Greek and Roman Mythology: The Age of Fable* by Thomas Bulfinch.** *The Age of Fable* is a classic collection of ancient Greek and Roman mythology, plays, and epic poems. Chapters 1 and 2 introduces the Greek myths and the creation of the world, providing a comprehensive understanding of the Greek world. Chapter 27 and 28 narrates the Trojan War, which will be read in more detail during the school year. If you are interested in adding a beautiful copy to your library, consider this leather-bound book that includes all three of Bulfinch's original titles: *The Age of Fable*, *The Age of Chivalry*, and *The Legends of Charlemagne* (ISBN: 978-1626861695). However, to complete this summer's reading, this paperback is more than sufficient (ISBN: 978-0486411071, Dover Thrift Edition)