

5/21/2015

Dear Students and Parents,

I am writing to introduce myself to you and to encourage you about your summer reading.

First, may I tell you a little bit about myself? I am married to Nancy who is a former talent agent and opera singer. Currently, Nancy is the daytime voice of Dallas' classical radio station, WRR101FM. If you like classical music, you can stream her program on your computer at www.wrr101.com. Nancy and I have two sons: Matt, who is a cardiologist at Baylor Hospital, Dallas; and Trey, who is a wilderness guide in Durango, Colorado. Nancy and I also have two Maltipoos: Shadow and Lyddy; and two cats: Cash and Figaro. My hobbies are tennis, bass fishing, and playing the guitar. Academically, my first love is the Greek New Testament, but I also love literature and history, and I have taught those subjects at several Christian schools. I have also been a pastor and a college professor.

Once school begins, you'll find my classroom to be an orderly environment of mutual respect between teacher and student, balanced between serious discussions and plenty of room to laugh. We'll work together to think more critically about important ideas, to write more elegantly, to speak more eloquently, and we'll scrutinize our thinking and speaking in light of God's Word.

With regard to summer reading, here are some important things to know. Reading is half the battle. By "half the battle," I mean that, in order for us to have a wonderful learning experience together, it is paramount that we read. Think about it this way: what if you had the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with Albert Einstein, Plato, St. Augustine, or Charles Dickens? Actually, you do! That's what happens when we read important literature: we have a one-on-one encounter with the greatest minds in history and, as Solomon tells us, such encounters will sharpen our minds as "iron sharpens iron," and we all want to be "sharper," right?

So when you come to my class on the first day of school next fall, guess what? The first thing we'll do is to take a major quiz over summer reading. "What?" you may ask, "A major quiz on the first day of school?" Yes, that's correct, but take heart. I will quiz you often over reading, but I design my quizzes in such a way as to strongly reward the student who reads. In fact I can almost guarantee that, if you do the reading (Sparknotes or Cliffnotes won't work), you will make an "A" on your summer reading quiz. In fact, you will probably make an "A" on all my quizzes throughout next year if you do the reading I ask of you, which will count as 25% of your entire grade. That's a good deal! But, enough about school . . .

Nancy and I are packing for our move from Dallas to East Texas, and we look forward to being back in East Texas. I hope you have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to meeting you next Fall. And I pray God's richest blessings upon you and your family.

Grace to you,
and Peace,
Dr. Brunson

9th grade Pre-AP Summer Reading Materials:
***Mythology* by Edith Hamilton (ISBN: 978-0-316-22333-1)**