

Humanities 10 Pre-AP Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Rising Tenth Graders,

This summer, you are expected to read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien (ISBN: 978-0547928227). *The Hobbit* tells the story of Bilbo Baggins, who embarks on a journey that leads him out of his homeland, The Shire, and across the world of Middle Earth. *The Hobbit* also serves as the prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. As you read, you should annotate the text, marking key passages and keeping an eye out for the following themes:

- The development of Bilbo into a hero
- The heroic quest
- The importance of myth in Middle Earth
- The dis-ordering and re-ordering of desire

On the first week of class, you will have an objective quiz and in-class essay over the reading. In order to do well on the assessments, you *must read* the assigned text. Reading SparkNotes, Wikipedia, or other summaries will not suffice. If you read, you will do well on the assessments.

On another note, please do not watch the movies. Merely watching the movies will result in a poor grade on the quiz and essay. Plus, by watching the movies, you are wasting **nine hours** of your precious summer. Yes, they really are that bad. If you feel the need to watch a movie, your nine hours are better spent watching one or more of the films below (assuming your parents approve):

- *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy (PG-13)
- *The Tree of Life* (PG-13)
- *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* (PG)
- The original *Star Wars* trilogy (PG)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at jeslicker@brookhill.org. Enjoy your summer and may the peace of the Lord be always with you!

Best Regards,

Mr. Eslicker