**Dear Students—**

Welcome to high school and 9th Grade Humanities PreAP! This summer, you must read *The Epic of Gilgamesh,* a set of poems preserved on clay tablets surviving from ancient Mesopotamia (of the third millennium B.C.E.). The *Epic of Gilgamesh* is one of the best and most important pieces of epic poetry from human history, predating even Homer's *Iliad* by roughly 1,500 years. *Gilgamesh* tells of the various adventures of a hero-king, including his quest for immortality, and an account of a great flood similar in many details to the story of Noah from the *Torah*. It is a buddy/adventure story, and is one of the oldest things you can read on planet Earth.

There are many translations and editions available in bookstores, libraries and online. However, for this class we will use the Penguin Books edition translated by N.K. Sandars. It is revised into story format, so is much more readable than editions that are more true to the tablets. Here is the ISBN so you can purchase the exact copy we’ll be using: ISBN: 978-0-14-044100-0.

**As you read, you are to write a summary for each chapter of the book. I’ve included a sample on the following page.**

**Robert Sloan Lee**

**Dr. Lee**

**Humanities 9 PreAP**

**21 August 2020**

***The Epic of Gilgamesh* – Summarized**

**Chapter 1**Gilgamesh is a horrible king who is cruel to his people. He takes what he wants and forces the people to build the walls of the city, Uruk. He is so strong that he takes the bides of the other men on their wedding nights. The people in Uruk plead for the gods to help them. As a result, the gods hear and command the goddess Aruru to create someone with enough strength to counter Gilgamesh.

*(The remainder of your summaries should look something like this.)*