Honors Humanities 10

Summer Reading 2021

Hello Students:

Please read *Nero* (Publisher: Canon Press; ISBN: 1591280575), and be ready to discuss it upon your return to school for your 2021-22 school year. The reasons why this book has been chosen are many. But to give three is fitting:

1. Nero was a compelling, complicated, and significant figure of first century in the West.
2. He lived and reigned during a time period of which our 10th grade Humanities class treats.
3. Consider how God used such a corrupt man and hater of the Church to catapult the gospel throughout the Empire and on to various parts of the world.

For each chapter, please type a summary. You can find an example of what a summary should look like on the next page. Make your summary look the same (namely: single-spaced, *Ariel Narrow* font, and font size 11). Also, ***do not use any sources other than the book in writing your summary***.

Best Regards,

Dr. Lee

**Robert Sloan Lee**

**Dr. Lee**

**Humanities 10**

**21 August 2021**

***Nero* by Joseph Abbott – Summarized**

**Chapter 1: Nero’s Mother**

Nero was born near Antium (on the seacoast about 30 miles south of the Tiber River). He was born into the Ahenobarus Family (i.e., the Brazen Beard Family). Nero’s father and mother (Agrippina) were wealthy and corrupt people. Emperors in early Rome presided (during the period of the Republic) over the military and the senate was the highest authority. Roman military encampments were supplied by the tribute (or taxes) of the conquered peoples. The Roman military (while cruel) provided economic stability in the ancient world. After the Republic ended, the political power of the military became supreme. Abbott explains that great skill is required in establishing authority, but little is need in maintaining it – because people will endure a lot of in justice under and established authority (but will not easily accept a new authority). The military structure of Rome was so efficient that it could support extremely incompetent, stupid and cruel men – men like Caligula. Caligula’s was cruel, wasteful, and incompetent. Caligula often tortured senators and their families.

**Chapter 2: The Assassination of Caligula**

Cassius Chaerea (a centurion) was involved in a plot to assassinate Caligula. Chaerea distinguished himself with an act of spectacular bravery in the German legion – namely, he fought his way out of a military encampment of mercenary soldiers that had revolted and beaten the other centurions. Chaerea was promoted to Caligula’s court where the jealous emperor took pleasure in humiliating him. Specifically, he was required to torture men at Caligula’s command (because the emperor knew that he did not like it). In one case, it was demanded that Chaerea torture a woman named Quintilia. That demand was the breaking point at which Chaerea decided to kill Caligula. Chaerea and his conspirators decide to assassinate Caligula at the Roman festivities – and Chaerea struck the first blow. Caesonia (Caligula’s wife) and her child are also killed during the coup.

**Chapter 3:**

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