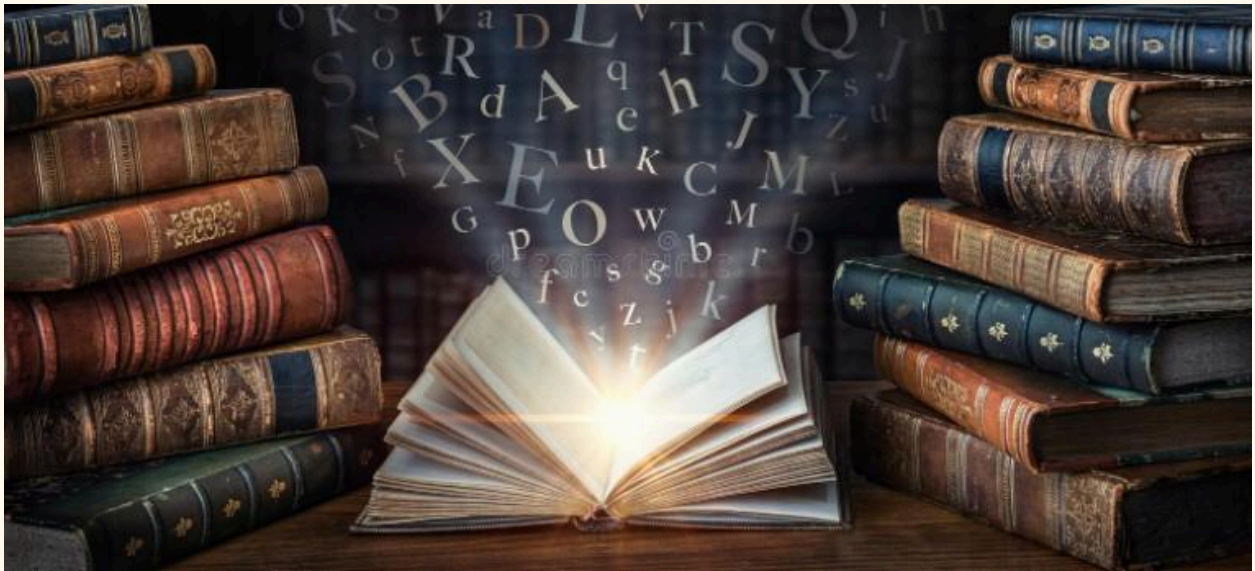


WELCOME TO 9TH GRADE ENGLISH

Well... almost.



But First: Summer!

Ah, summer... The season of sunshine, heat, and relaxation! Summer is a time for us to take a deep breath and rest after a year full of academic rigor and stress. It's also time for summer reading! This year, you will dip your toes into the world of ancient Greek and Roman myths through a Christian lens, which will prepare you for understanding texts on the reading list for your ninth-grade year, such as *The Odyssey* by Homer.

On top of reading for class, you should also read books of your choosing! Reading is FUN, and I want you to embrace the books that give you joy during your break. Attached is a summer reading challenge BINGO sheet. After you read *The Myth Made Fact*, you already have one BINGO space filled! How many more can you read before summer's end?

In the following sections, you will find expectations for your time spent diving into literature this summer.

***The Myth Made Fact* by Louis Markos, PhD**

“We must not be ashamed of the mythical radiance resting on our theology. We must not be nervous about ‘parallels’ and ‘pagan Christs’: they *ought* to be there—it would be a stumbling block if they weren’t. . . . If God chooses to be mythopoeic¹—and is not the sky itself a myth—shall we refuse to be *mythopathic*?² For this is the marriage of heaven and earth: Perfect Myth and Perfect Fact.” – C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*

In *The Myth Made Fact: Reading Greek and Roman Mythology Through Christian Eyes*, Dr. Markos follows in the footsteps of many of our greatest thinkers (Lewis, Augustine, etc.) as he uncovers wisdom from the myths of the Greeks and Romans, tracing the links that bind these values to those found within Scripture and God’s heart.

The Myth Made Fact offers distinct insight into how the common people of pagan Greece and Rome received their myths and used them as guides to virtuous living. By doing so, Dr. Markos helps his readers receive myth in the right spirit: not as historical tales that contradict the Bible, but as testimonies to the yearnings of people who lacked clear revelation but nevertheless hungered and thirsted for Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Classical Academic Press, 2025

As you read, do so for enjoyment – appreciate the stories that helped to shape so much of history and human understanding. There will be no chapter quizzes after you read. Yep, you read that right! Instead, I want you to pause and practice a few different techniques, called retrieval practice, that will help you remember the content of what you spend time reading.

Retrieval Practice

Instead of weekly chapter quizzes, I encourage you to challenge yourself by pausing before and after a chapter to assess what you have learned. Data supports the idea that the process of “stretching your brain” by recalling information frequently helps one to remember more of what one is learning. Listed below are a couple of strategies that will benefit you as you read. Important: Don’t use your books to help you during these exercises! You are stretching your

¹ Mythopoeic: relating to or characteristic of the creation of myths, or giving rise to myths.

² Mythopathic: understanding the meanings of myths, parables, and sacred stories.

brain, not the book. It's okay if it takes you a long time. That's a good thing! Learning takes time.

1. Brain Dump

My favorite type of retrieval practice! Write down everything you know about the topic. For example, before reading *The Myth Made Fact*, write down everything you know already about Greek and Roman mythology. After a chapter, write down everything you know about that chapter, etc.

2. Two Things

What are two things you learned in the chapter?

The book also includes insightful questions that are meant to enhance critical thinking at the end of each story. You could choose to answer one or two of these questions for each chapter to increase your understanding of the material.

What to Expect In The Fall

In the first few days of school, you will be given two assignments to ensure you have read the required material. The first will be an in-class writing assignment, which will be another way for you to “retrieve” what you read. Second, I will provide a list of five projects from which you will choose one to complete at home and turn in at a later date.

Happy Reading!

Enjoy time with family and friends this summer! I look forward to hearing all about your various adventures this fall. I do not have a school e-mail address yet, but please feel free to contact me at hanna.m.lomeli@gmail.com if you have any questions.