



In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

"What we know is that children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development while kids who do read tend to gain a month of reading proficiency..."

Richard Allington, professor of literacy studies and past-president of the International Reading Association

We, in Conroe ISD, do maintain our belief in the power of reading for all students. In order to maintain reading skills and continue to grow a reading life, we encourage all students to continue reading over the summer.

English IV 2332 and 2333 Summer Reading

English IV 2332 and 2333 focus on World Literature, encompassing the writings of the ancient world to the present day. All reading and exploration completed over the summer will help students form foundations of understanding for the work completed during the first semester. These works will help students form a context of the culture and character respected and abhorred in those civilizations. Choices do not have to focus on ancient Western civilizations, but may include works about any ancient civilization.

Students will need to read Homer's *Odyssey*. We will use this work as a foundational piece for our first and second units. We will also use this piece to establish requisite skills for 2332 and 2333.

Homer's *Odyssey* exemplifies the Western idea of epic. We will use this to compare works of other cultures and civilizations.

The *Odyssey* shares Odysseus's twenty year journey home from the Trojan War. Homer divided this epic into books instead of chapters. Consider each book a new adventure. Look for the values and expected consequences found within Greek culture demonstrated throughout the work.

In addition to reading, here are also some links to museum exhibits which will help to build context.

<http://www.ancientcivilizations.co.uk/noflash.html>

<https://www.namuseum.gr/en/collections/>

<https://tinyurl.com/u2sx7qb>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/pergamonmuseum-staatliche-museen-zu-berlin?hl=en>

As the school year begins, you will have college applications and the personal essay in addition to your regular classwork. I highly encourage students to have finished or almost finished *The Odyssey* by the beginning of the school year. I look forward to meeting you! Email tneman@conroesid.net with questions.