

Community Reading:

1. **All Rhetoric Students** must read: *Winning the War in Your Mind: Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life* by Craig Groeschel (ISBN: 0310362725 or 978-0310362722), and be prepared for Harkness discussions on the first day of school. Students should prepare for Harkness discussion utilizing the following methods:

- Complete all exercises in the book at the end of each chapter (this replaces the dialectical journal and should be completed directly in the text).
- Be prepared to discuss your reaction to the book, personal application, implications for our community, specific questions raised, Biblical integration, writing style, logic employed, ideas, etc.
- Be prepared to address the key ideas raised by the author in the book.
- Prepare three discussion questions for consideration.
- Students are strongly encouraged to participate in active reading – making notes in the text, highlighting, asking questions in the margins, looking up scriptures, summarizing each chapter, etc.

Students are required to bring the book and personal responses to class for the discussions.

In addition to the above, students should read the appropriate book below (based on grade-level/course enrollment) and complete the corresponding assignment.

Ancient Literature (Grade 9): Students will first read over the summarized version of the Greek myth “The Twelve Labors of Hercules” at [The Twelve Labors of Hercules](#). Students must then read *The Labors of Hercules* by Agatha Christie (ISBN: 978-0062073983) and keep a dialectical journal on the book. They must have a minimum of two entries per short story. They will choose three of the short stories and write an 5-8 paragraph expository essay on the book. The first paragraph should include an introduction to the book and an explanation of how it is connected to the ancient myths. The next 3-6 paragraphs should compare and contrast the three short stories to the three ancient labors that the student chose. The last paragraph is the conclusion and should also contain an opinion statement about whether the author did a good job connecting her story to the ancient myths.

All papers must be typed and double-spaced. Please use Times New Roman or Arial font in size 11. Do not use personal pronouns (e.g. I, you).

Helpful resources:

An introduction to expository essays can be found: [Expository Essays - Purdue OWL](#)

** The dialectical journal must be kept in a notebook. **

Medieval Literature (Grade 10): Students will first read over the following list of [Common Archetypes](#)

Students will then read Neil Gaiman’s *Norse Mythology* (ISBN-10: 039360909X, ISBN-13: 978-0393609097) and keep a dialectical journal of archetypes that they see while they read. Students

should aim for at least 2 archetypes per story. Students will then write a 5-paragraph essay in response to the following prompt:

Neil Gaiman highlights many archetypes present in medieval Norse mythology in his retelling of these stories. Select 3 archetypes that stand out to you as particularly important and write an essay which explains each archetype and how it adds depth to a reader's understanding of a particular character or event. What does this archetype draw the reader's attention to? What does this archetype help readers understand about a character's motivations? You might choose an archetype because you noticed it more than once or you might choose an archetype that you noticed only once but that struck you as interesting. Each of your body paragraphs should have at least one direct quote from the text with an in-text citation that looks something like this: (Gaiman 47).

Your essay will be graded on your understanding of archetypes, understanding of the text, use of direct quotes from the text, essay structure, and grammar. All papers must be typed and double-spaced. Please use Times New Roman font and avoid personal pronouns (I, you, etc.). Essays are due on the first full day of school.

British Literature (Grade 11): Students will read *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Any unabridged copy of the book will do. There are also many digital copies available online as well, including this one: [The Project Gutenberg eBook of The Strange Case Of Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde, by Robert Louis Stevenson](#)

Students should keep a dialectical journal throughout the book. They should have 4-5 entries per chapter (a total of 40-50). Here are instructions on how to keep a dialectical journal for my class: [Dialectical Journal](#)

They also need to keep a log of unfamiliar vocabulary and their definitions as they read. They may use the same journal as their dialectical journal. I would like them to have 4-5 quality vocabulary words copied down and defined per chapter as well.

There will be a harkness discussion over this book the first week of class. Quality journal notes will be key.

American Literature (Grade 12): Students must read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (ISBN: 978-0743273565) and keep a dialectical journal. It has been said that the theme of the novel is "the withering of the American Dream." With that in mind, dialectical journals should focus on quotes that relate to the theme of the American Dream or to American identity in some way. After reading, the students must write a five paragraph essay explaining what the American Dream is (according to the novel) and how the novel does or does not demonstrate the death of the American Dream.

Each body paragraph of the essay should have at least one direct quote from the text with an in-text citation that looks something like this: (Fitzgerald 45). Essays will be graded on understanding of *The Great Gatsby*, depth of analysis of the American Dream, use of textual evidence, essay structure, and grammar. All papers must be typed and double-spaced. Please use Times New Roman font and avoid personal pronouns (I, you, etc.). Essays are due on the first full day of school.

Senior Thesis (Grade 12 - all Seniors must read) *Tactics, a Game Plan for Discussing your Christian Convictions* by Gregory Koukl (ISBN #978-0-310-101468)