

## Sterling Classical School

### 9<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Reading – 2021

The first major work that will be explored in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English will be the epic poem *The Iliad*. In order to gain a better perspective of the age-old tale and the significance of The Hero's Journey, this summer you will read the novel *The Hobbit*, written by J.R.R Tolkien.

A great modern classic and the prelude to *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, this novel tells the story of Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. However, his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep to whisk him away on an adventure. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

As you read you need to annotate the text, a CLOSE reading. Highlight or underline important passages, quotes, or ideas in the reading. Ask questions. Make statements. Consider vocabulary and sentence structure.

After you read *The Hobbit*, you will write an essay that answers the following question. As you write, consider the diction (word choice) and syntax (sentence structure) you are using. Avoid using simple vocabulary and sentence structures.

Your essay should have a clear introduction with a thesis. Remember whatever opinions you are presenting in your thesis should be explained in your body paragraphs and supported with textual evidence (concrete details) and examples from other books, movies or current events.

#### **ESSAY:**

Must be typed in MLA format:

12 point font (Times New Roman or Calibri)

Double Spaced

1 inch margins on all sides

*Interesting* Title Centered

with Name, Date, and Teacher's Name in upper right hand corner.

500-750 words in length

3-5 Quotes from the novel.

#### **Essay Question:**

The *Hobbit* is a *bildungsroman*- coming of age story. Trace Bilbo's growth as a character from the beginning of the story until its end. Support your points by giving specific details/examples from the story.