



## **Ninth Grade Summer Reading 2025**

*Dear students entering 9th grade,*

*This coming year we will be studying World Literature across a wide variety of time periods. Our course will consider what it means to be a hero: both tragically and epically. Our texts will examine a wide range of protagonists all of whom have some traits of a hero. So when you read this summer and answer the following questions, know that it is with the mindset of considering what are the traits associated with a hero.*

### **Summer English to-do list**

- Read *The Hobbit*; gather evidence, write response, proofread, and print
- Review Latin and Greek bases
- Order your books for the year

### **READING**

1) required: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

### **Writing for *The Hobbit*:**

Consider Bilbo as a hero. Remember to actively read (take notes in the margin, use sticky notes, keep a journal, etc.) so you can recall the details, page numbers, and themes of the text. You may type or write your responses.

- What does Bilbo do that makes him seem heroic? **Find three examples** with quotations and page numbers. **Please explain** what characteristics of a hero you associate with each example you have given. So WHY is he being heroic in each example you find.
- Describe *three* of the obstacles / challenges on his journey and how Bilbo responds. In what ways does Bilbo change / grow as a result of these obstacles? **Find three quotations that show his changing awareness of himself** and that prove to you that he is maturing as a character. Identify 3 quotes where this happens AND explain what Bilbo learns about himself in that moment.
- Using the quotes you found above about heroism and overcoming obstacles, respond to the following prompt in roughly 1.5 to 2 pages. **Does the journey turn Bilbo into a hero or do you think he had those heroic qualities in him from the start?** (You don't need

to use all 6 quotes to support your response, 3 or so would be fine, but you are welcome to use all of them if you wish.)

This is my first chance to see your strengths and qualities as a writer. Please try to place your best effort into your writing. If you were at XRDS last year I expect to see proper citations as well as strong sentence structure.

**Sample response:**

**Heroic:**

**Quote:** “No, not a fair fight. He was invisible now. Gollum had no sword... Straight over Gollum’s head he jumped... he only just missed cracking his skull... Gollum was defeated,” (81-82).

**Analysis:** Bilbo shows he is a hero and leader through his sense of moral integrity. Bilbo could have easily killed Gollum because no one is watching him, but he sees he has the upper hand and decides to do the right thing. He risks Gollum catching up to him because he knows fighting someone while they cannot see you is the wrong thing to do. Bilbo decides in that tunnel that he wants to defeat Gollum the right way, even though Gollum did not stick to his promises.

So you should have SIX TOTAL quotes and analysis sections when you’re done (3 for heroic traits and 3 for obstacles overcome).

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

Nate Reyes

[nate@crossroadscollegeprep.org](mailto:nate@crossroadscollegeprep.org)

**BOOKS for our course:**

- *The Odyssey*, G. Hinds (ISBN 9780763642686) Graphic novel - please purchase this specific version
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, K. Hosseini (ISBN 9780739489505)
- *Homegoing*, Y. Gyasi (ISBN 978-1101971062)
- *Othello*, Shakespeare (ISBN 978150114629 on Amazon: B00817US3I)