

**English 9 Summer Reading Assignment  
2019-2020  
The Iliad**

Welcome to 9th Grade Honors English! The honors course is designed to introduce students to all facets of literature and composition typically studied in college and to better prepare students for advanced college courses available while still in high school such as AP Literature and Composition and Dual Enrollment in English Composition through Motlow.

One skill that is critical to success in these courses is self motivated, prolonged reading of difficult texts. The Summer Project is designed to assess this ability and discipline.

**Material:**

Students will need to purchase a wide-rule composition notebook and a copy of Homer's The Iliad. (Copies of this text can also be download off of the internet, IBooks, and Google Store for free).

**Assignment:**

The The Iliad is one of the foundational texts of Classical Western Literature. It introduces students to the story of the Trojan War, Greek Mythology, and events and characters that are constantly alluded to throughout both literature and pop culture.

Students will complete a reading journal that both summarizes each chapter and empathizes with the characters in each section.

*em·pa·thy. /'empəTHē/. noun*  
*the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.*

**Directions:**

1. Each night read one Book in the Iliad. (The “chapters” are referred to as Books: Book I, Book IV, Book XXII, etc.)
2. Title each page for the Book you are reading and date the page.
3. Draw a line through the middle of the page
4. On the top half, summarize the Book in your own words.
5. On the bottom half, choose any character in that book and empathize with their words, thoughts, actions, reactions, motivations, etc.

\*\*\* When completed, there should be a total of 24 FULL pages - one for each chapter.

**Grading:**

The Journal will count as 2 test grades, and will be scored for originality and completion. Copying directly from the text in the summary section or plagiarizing the empathy section will void the journal, and a grade of zero will be entered.

**Example:**

## Book XXII

April 2nd

Summary

Hector is the only Trojan outside of Troy. Achilles returns angry after chasing Apollo. Hector confronts him and attempts to reason with him. Once he realizes this is useless, he begins to run. He runs three full circles and is nearing the main for the fourth time when Athena stops Achilles from chasing him and says she will get Hector to stand and fight. She convinces him to stop, and Achilles throws his spear at Hector.

Personal

Reflection

In this section of the novel, I was able to find that I relate best to Hector. Hector was manipulated by the gods. They convinced him to stop running and wait for Achilles. If they hadn't have done this, then Hector might have been able to come up with a plan to surprise Achilles and save himself. Instead, he was lead to his death. He was betrayed by those he trusted, and that has happened to me several times.