

May 6, 2021

Dear AP English Literature Student:

Welcome to AP English Literature for 2021-2022! I hope you will find the course both challenging and stimulating.

Over the summer you are required to read the Stanley Lombardo translation of Homer's *Iliad* in its entirety. You have two options for how to obtain and read it:

My recommendation is to [purchase the book yourself from Amazon](#), Changing Hands, or Barnes and Noble, so that you can annotate it.

- Please note that the Lombardo translation will serve as the official text for the class; **no other translation will be acceptable.**
- Furthermore, DO NOT purchase *The Essential Iliad* – that is an abridged version that leaves out several sections we will go over.

You may also obtain a copy from the DV Library. The library is closed for most of May due to AP testing, so **all students will need to complete [the book request form](#) on the DV Library web site and request *The Iliad*.**

- **If you are currently attending classes on campus**, indicate that you are “hybrid” on the form and the book will be delivered to you in class.
- **If you are currently attending classes from home**, indicate that you are “virtual” on the form and you will be contacted when your copy is available for pickup in the main office, usually in a couple of days. Do this as soon as possible to make you get your copy before the end of the school year.

If neither option is possible for you, **email me and we can make other arrangements!**

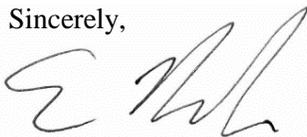
As you read, you should consider the following questions: what argument does Homer make about war through the *Iliad*? How do the Ancient Greeks view honor in battle, and what does Homer have to say about these notions? And, if we assume Achilles is the hero of the *Iliad*, in what ways is he consistent or inconsistent with our modern conception of heroism? These questions, to varying degrees, all resist simple, straightforward answers (get used to that!), but reading the poem with a keen, thoughtful eye towards these issues will prepare you to have a successful first few weeks of AP Literature.

On the first day of class, you will be given a reading quiz and skills check based on the *Iliad*. We will then spend approximately three weeks rereading parts of the *Iliad* and discussing themes, characters, literary techniques, with the issues above serving as a starting point. You will be completely lost if you have not read the full text of the poem by the first day of class.

Again, welcome to my class. I hope the class will increase your understanding and enjoyment of literature. Please email me with any questions or to arrange a video chat.

I look forward to seeing you in August! Have a wonderful and healthy summer!

Sincerely,



Mr. Belec  
ebelec@tempeunion.org  
Desert Vista English Department