

**POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading**

*Fairy tales do not give the child his first idea of bogey. What fairy tales give the child is his first clear idea of the possible defeat of bogey. The baby has known the dragon intimately ever since he had an imagination. What the fairy tale provides for him is a St. George to kill the dragon. - G.K. Chesterton*

God bless summer vacation! It is a much-needed break from the rigors of the academic schedule and a time to pursue personal interests more freely. It is also a wonderful opportunity to read books from a variety of disciplines. Enjoy your summer reading! Please complete your reading and the associated assignments before the first day of school, which is Wednesday, August 31, 2022.

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade English course will explore the concept of the hero throughout the course of the year.

**\*\*\* If you have registered for English 9 / English 1A, read.....**

*The Hobbit*, Tolkien (0-345-33968-1)

**\*\*\* If you have registered for Honors English, read both of the books below...**

*The Hobbit*, Tolkien (0-345-33968-1) - and - *Mr. Blue*, Connolly (978-1944418076)

**\*\*\* If you have registered for: Biology/Honors Biology, choose one of the books below...**

To prepare for the wonderful world of biology, you have the opportunity to choose between two books. While reading, pay attention to how the scientific inquiry process has worked through the ages, how we have come to understand the science of living things and how that understanding has changed over time.

*A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bryson (978-0767908184)

There is also a nice audiobook version narrated by the author.

- or -

*The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*, Johnson (978-1-59448-269-4)

**\*\*\* There is no assigned reading for the MSI class. (Methods in Scientific Inquiry).**

There are many ways to get your books. Check out hpb.com or thriftbooks.com for affordable books. Students may keep journals through the summer to help them recall their thoughts about their reading. These journals may be useful in preparing for class discussions and assessment. If students read their books early in the summer, they may want to review before school begins.

**REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS ARE ON PAGE 2**      

## Associated Assignments

### **JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit***

Answer each of these questions below in a well-developed paragraph (minimum of 5-10 sentences). Responses must be typed, double-spaced. Please write your answers without assistance from others. This writing activity will demonstrate how thoughtful you can be independently. Be sure to include quotes and paraphrases from the text in each response. You will receive points based on the above criteria.

#### **Due the first full day of class.**

- 1) Compare Bilbo at the beginning of his journey with Bilbo at the end of his journey. What are the changes and what causes them? Would you call him a hero? Why or why not? What is the most valuable lesson learned?
- 2) When Bilbo took the Arkenstone to Thorin's enemies it seemed a dreadful betrayal to him. But before he dies Thorin has a change of heart and tells Bilbo, "I wish to part in friendship from you, and I would take back my words and deeds at the Gate." Why has Thorin changed? What has he learned from Bilbo?
- 3) Examine the ways in which the battle between good and evil or light and darkness is fought in *The Hobbit* and discuss what is communicated about human nature through this struggle.

### **Myles Connolly's *Mr. Blue***

Answer each of these questions below in a well-developed paragraph (minimum of 5-10 sentences). Responses must be typed, double-spaced. Please write your answers without assistance from others. This writing activity will demonstrate how thoughtful you can be independently. Be sure to include quotes and paraphrases from the text in each response. You will receive points based on the above criteria.

#### **Due the first full day of class.**

- 1) Do some research on St. Francis. How does J. Blue compare? What are some significant contrasts?
- 2) Connolly could have chosen to have the story of Blue narrated by a fully supportive acquaintance or disciple. What is the effect of the voice of the skeptical narrator on you as a reader?
- 3) "Your failure is measured by your aspirations. Aspire not, and you cannot fail. Columbus died in chains. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. Let us all live snugly -- and life will soon be little more than a thick, gelatinous stream of  
a. comfortability and ignorance." Explore Connolly's concept of heroism as a rejection of mediocrity. What is heroic about Mr. Blue?

### **Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything***

Come to class prepared to discuss at least one topic you found interesting in your reading. Aside from the class discussion, you will be making a Google Slide presentation during the first week of school about a specific topic from the Bryson book.

### **Johnson's *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World***

Come to class prepared to discuss at least one topic you found interesting in your reading. Aside from the class discussion, you will be making a Google Slide presentation during the first week of school about a specific topic from a particular aspect of the case presented in the book.