

RISING 8TH GRADE

SUMMER 2023 ASSIGNMENTS

REQUIRED READING AND WRITING

Fellowship of the Ring by J. R. R. Tolkien: Book One, Chapters 1-12

Assignment: Most importantly, I want you to ENJOY the story and familiarize yourself with the characters, plot, and themes. Feel free to write down questions, take notes, or keep a list of characters. As you read, **select a character that you believe models the virtue of fortitude described below.**



Over the summer, you will write a 3-paragraph essay that offers a coherent argument for how the character you choose demonstrates the virtue of fortitude. Your introduction paragraph will highlight the virtue itself and your description and definition of the virtue in your own words, ending in a thesis statement that clearly states that your character possesses the virtue of fortitude. Your body paragraph will provide examples from *The Fellowship of the Ring* that support your thesis statement. Your conclusion paragraph should summarize your perspective and look forward to how you think the character will continue to demonstrate fortitude moving forward.

Questions to consider:

- Has your character experienced conflict yet? How did they respond? If not, how do you anticipate they will respond based on what you know of them?
- How does the community surrounding your character impact who they are and how they act? What does it mean to be a hobbit or elf, for example?
- Why do you think Tolkien included this character in his story? How does the character support the larger themes that unfold (the role of power and its intersection with good and evil, for example)?

7 VIRTUES (4 CARDINAL AND 3 THEOLOGICAL)

1. Prudence - a true grasp of reality; the ability to discern how things really are and how God would have us respond to them; wisdom
2. Justice - right ordering of all one's relationships
3. **Fortitude - perseverance in doing good; courage; bravery**
4. Temperance - self-control; the willingness to moderate one's desires in light of a greater good
5. Faith - confidence and trust in another person
6. Hope - confidence in becoming and doing what one was intended to be and do
7. Love - the desire for the best for another; the affirmation of the goodness of the existence of another person

RECOMMENDED READING

Number the Stars and/or *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien (as a review or if you have not read it yet)

Any of the first 6 *Chronicles of Narnia* (Try listening to one on audio as a family! Audio books are available through your local library.)