

9th and 10th Grade Summer Reading 2024

Greetings Medievalists,

This summer you are **required** to read **two items**: *How to Read a Book: Advice for Christian Readers* by Andrew D. Naselli ([ISBN 1591280672](#)), and pages 27-43 *only* of *The History of William Marshal* translated by Nigel Bryant ([ISBN 1783273038](#)). Be sure to purchase these particular **physical copies** of the book since you will not be allowed to bring any Kindles or eBook readers to school. *William Marshal* will be a core text for several units in your humanities class, and you can expect to discuss it in class and to have a quiz or writing assignment about it within the first two to three weeks of school.

Why read *The History of William Marshal*? Composed in the 1220s, *The History* is the earliest surviving biography of a medieval knight; even more, William's contemporaries hailed him as the "the greatest knight who ever lived". Told with astonishing scope and vivid detail, *The History* acts as a gateway into the twelfth-thirteenth centuries, tracing events from the Anarchy between Empress Matilda and her usurping cousin Stephen, to the tyranny of King John and the First Barons' War. It is thrilling, action-packed, and moving, and the book I specialized in while training at university — I cannot wait for you to meet England's "greatest knight".

Please note that you are only reading pages 27-43 of *The History* over the summer (we will finish it in class), and this is intentional. You are being trained as historians to question and analyze primary source documents on your own using skills derived from *How to Read a Book*, and add context learned from material in class later.

Additionally, you are highly **encouraged**, though not required, to choose a second book from the reading list on the page below. All volumes have been chosen carefully based upon their relevance or inspiration drawn from the era, as well as age appropriate reading level. This being said, your instructors stand firm on partnering with parents to discern the suitability of reading material for each child individually, and thus your parents will advise.

Finally, remember that the grades associated with summer reading are **crucial** in getting your humanities grade off to a great start, so do take advantage. If you have any questions about the summer reading, please email Ms. Drake at PDrake@logosclassicalacademy.org.

Welcome to Medieval Humanities.

Paris Drake, PGDip.

Medieval Humanities

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Optional Summer Reads

- [Ivanhoe](#) by Sir Walter Scott
- [The Lord of the Rings](#) Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien
- [The Once and Future King](#) by T.H. White
- [Arthurian Romances](#) by Chrétien de Troyes
- [Tristan and Isolde](#) by Beroul
- [The Lais](#) of Marie de France
- [Sir Gawain and the Green Knight](#) translated by J.R.R. Tolkien
- [The Book of the City of Ladies](#) by Christine de Pizan
- [The Canterbury Tales](#) by Geoffrey Chaucer
- [The History of the Kings of Britain](#) by Geoffrey of Monmouth
- [Le Morte D'Arthur](#) by Sir Thomas Malory
- [Chronicles](#) by Jean Froissart
- [Lady Jane Grey](#) by Simonetta Carr
- [Tales](#) from 1001 Arabian Nights
- [The Faerie Queene](#) by Edmund Spenser
- [Saint George and the Dragon](#) by Mary Hodges
- [A Knight's Own Book of Chivalry](#) by Geoffroi de Charny
- [The Princess Bride](#) by William Goldman
- [The Song of Roland](#)
- [Much Ado About Nothing](#) by William Shakespeare
- [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#) by William Shakespeare
- [The Vinland Sagas](#) and [The Saga of the Volsungs](#)
- [The Prince](#) by Niccolo Machiavelli