

Classical Civilisation Bridging Work

In Year 12 we will be doing the following two modules:

- World of the Hero – The Odyssey
- Imperial Image

Books you MUST buy:

Homer's Odyssey – Penguin Classics – Translated by E.V.Rieu

OCR Classical Civilisation - Components 21 & 22 – Greek Theatre and Imperial Image

Below are some suggestions of accessible books which you might enjoy reading before starting to study A-level Classical Civilisation. Over the summer before starting Year 12, get hold of one or two of these books if you can, and enjoy reading.

1. Homer

Any Classics course will expect you to know about the two epic poems by Greek poet Homer – we will be reading the Odyssey together in Year 12, but they are both wonderful and inform the whole of the rest of ancient literature! How about reading 'Homer' from the 'Very Short Introduction' series of books?

2. Ancient Rome

Mary Beard is a Roman historian who has produced lots of readable books and great TV series too. Her book on 'Confronting the Classics' combines essays on a range of topics from ancient Greece and Rome. The emperor Augustus was probably the most influential figure in the history of Rome, and shaped a lot of what we think of as 'Roman' to this day. The Very Short Introduction to Classics deals with all the most important and interesting aspects of his period:

3. A really good way to get familiar with some of the complicated historical material and characters you'll be dealing with next year is to read some historical novels like:

- Allan Massie – Augustus
- Allan Massie – Caesar
- Allan Massie - Anthony
- Conn Iggulston – Julius Caesar trilogy
- Colleen McCullough – Anthony and Cleopatra
- Robert Graves - I, Claudius (also available as TV series!)

You'll find lots more historical novels out there on these historical figures which would provide a good base for your studies next year.

The following series has an 18 rating (and deservedly so) but does provide a good introduction to the history of Rome. Please check with your parents/guardians before watching this.

- HBO's Rome – 2nd series is the key time period