

9th Literature Text List

This course examines the works of ancient literature of the Near East and the Greek World that capture these immortal events, with a particular focus on the authors and the historical context of those works.

The **literary keel** for **9th Literature** is **hubris**, a kind of extreme arrogance often directed against the gods. In 9th Literature, we read Greek epics like Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and the tragic plays of Sophocles and Aeschylus; these works focus on the heroic deeds of great men who, at times, are brought down by an act of hubris.

At the same time, we also read selections in wisdom literature, like that of the Hebrew Bible but also Sumerian and Egyptian texts, that stress the importance of prudence, foresight, and self-control.

Given that 9th grade is such an important transitional year, not only from middle school to high school but also adolescence to adulthood, we would well to stress the idea of *hubris* as a means of engaging critically with these texts and applying their morals to our own lives--since we are liable to demonstrate in the same kind of hubris these authors are warning us about.

Integrated Thales Outcomes: Virtuous Leadership, Astute Problem Solving, Gratitude, Cooperative and Contributive Team Member, Unfailing Integrity, Self-Reliance, Truth-Seeker, Dreams and Aspirations to Change the World, and Strong Work Ethic.

Priority Text List

1st Quarter - 2nd Quarter: Survey of the Old Testament including Genesis 1-25 and selected Psalms¹

2nd Quarter - 3rd Quarter: Hesiod's *Works and Days*

2nd / 3rd Quarter: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*²

4th Quarter: Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*

¹ Please note that it is advisable to read selections from Sumerian and Egyptian wisdom literature (and at the very least, the Atrahasis Epic and/or the Epic of Gilgamesh) before reading selections from the Bible.

² For background information on Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, check out this lecture [available here](#).

Preferred Text List

I. Survey of the Mythology of Riverine Civilizations including Sumer, Egypt, and India ([Available as an iBook here](#))

- A. The Atrahasis Epic
- B. *Enuma Elish*
- C. Gilgamesh
- D. Selections from the Rig Veda and the Bhagavad Gita
- E. Selections from the *Analects* of Confucius and Sun Tzu's *Art of War* may also be read.

II. Survey of the Old Testament³

- A. Job
- B. Ecclesiastes
- C. Proverbs
- D. Psalms

III. Survey of Greek Epic Poetry

- A. Hesiod, *Works and Days*

IV. Survey of Greek Drama

- A. *The Oresteia* by Aeschylus
- B. *The Bacchae* by Euripides
- C. *Antigone* by Sophocles

Optional Reading List

The Odes by Pindar

The Myth of Isis and Osiris

Egyptian Book of the Dead: The Weighing of the Heart

Oedipus at Colonus

³ For background information on the Old Testament, check out this lecture [available here](#).

The Birds and *The Wasps* by Aristophanes

Medea by Euripides

The Debate between Bird and Fish

The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant

The Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor

Homeric Hymns (selection)

Much Ado about Nothing by Shakespeare