

English Literature and Composition Advanced Placement



by Ellen Oh.

Community Read: *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*



edited

Assignment #1: The Community One Read this summer is *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* edited by *Ellen Oh*. Please see the Fenwick website for information about the One Read book and the two-part reading assessment project instructions. The summer reflection project assignment will be graded and will count as a first quarter religion grade.

Summer Reading Assignment

English Literature and Composition Advanced Placement

Bishop Fenwick High School

English Department

Mrs. Hart

Please read **all** of the following:

1. *The Once and Future King* by T.H White*** see below
2. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Zora Neale Hurston)
3. *Oedipus the King* (Sophocles) (Sometimes listed as *Oedipus Rex*)

When you enter Fenwick in September, you will be tested on your reading. Be prepared to impress me with what you have learned. After the assessment, we will begin Book Talk Seminars, during which, through presentations, all members of the class will illuminate points of interest found in the assigned summer texts. This will be an opportunity to explore the literature

from a personal, aesthetic, or thematic focal point. In any case, the Book Talk will be explained in September and will involve personal choice and interest.

The King Arthur legend (a brief summary)

The Arthurian legend has existed for over a thousand of years and the story is as compelling today as it was long ago.. The legend of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table is one the most powerful and enduring stories in the western world. Although there is no real evidence that King Arthur, Guinevere, and Sir Lancelot existed, their names bring up images of gallant knights in shining armor, elegant ladies and heroic quests. In a world of honor and romance, the court of Camelot is at the center of a royal and mystical Britain.

The legend has fascinated poets, authors, script writers and people of every generation. Each new telling of the story, keeps the traditional characters ,but puts a spin on the story related to the time period it is being told in. For example, Sir Thomas Malory wrote the Morte d'Arthur in 1485 at the height of medieval times when chivalry and courtly love were so important. And if one reads it closely, one can see the values of the time period clearly demonstrated throughout the work.

This summer you are reading most of T.H. White's Once and Future King. The Once and Future king is made up of 4 books which were published separately and then were eventually put into one book. T.H White is British and wrote his books following World War II where he desperately has Arthur try to find a solution to war. He wrote about the same time that William Golding wrote Lord of the Flies. Both writers were deeply affected by the devastation and the cruelty prevalent during WWII.

So as you read these books, please consider the following: Pay close attention to Arthur's experiences with the animals, especially the ants, the goose, the hawk, the merlin and the badger. Also, **look at both Arthur's emerging leadership and the contrast of his upbringing with the Orkney brothers as well as the themes of power and education.**

I recommend that you annotate the text as you read. I know it is difficult to stop reading and take notes. Keep a highlighter near by or use sticky notes on pages where there is important information.

E-mail me at jsh@fenwick.org or hartj86@hotmail.com with any questions or concerns.