



Sager Classical Academy

7th Grade Summer Reading

The Trojan War by Olivia Coolidge

Chart and Reading Journal

Why We Choose to Read

In his 1952 essay entitled “The Great Conversation,” Robert Maynard Hutchins describes how great books are vital to education:

We are as concerned as anybody else at the headlong plunge into the abyss that Western civilization seems to be taking. We believe that the voices that may recall the West to sanity are those which have taken part in the Great Conversation. We want them to be heard again—not because we want to go back to antiquity, or the Middle Ages, or the Renaissance, or the Eighteenth Century. We are quite aware that we do not live in any time but the present, and distressing as the present is, we would not care to live in any other time if we could. We want the voices of the Great Conversation to be heard again because we think they may help us to learn to live better now.

Sager Classical Academy deliberately reads and studies these same voices—these books—not to dream of bygone eras, but to glean the wisdom and eternal truths that are present. Truth remains truth through the ages, and our historical fiction choice this year brings the truth of an ancient epic to life.

For over 3,000 years, the myths of Helen and Paris, Hector and Achilles, Zeus and Apollo, and beauty and betrayal have inspired imaginations. In this retelling of the Trojan War, Olivia Coolidge crafts heroes and gods into real, multidimensional characters, not just the figures of legend. This story has it all—action, adventure, honor, deceit, and even an apple that causes trouble for everyone!

ASSIGNMENTS

Please read the entire book and feel free to use an audiobook as you follow along in the text. You have **two assignments** to complete as you read the novel. You may either type or write these by hand. If you

choose handwritten, please use your best handwriting and write on the front side of your notebook paper only.

1. **Make a chart of characters.** Take a piece of notebook paper and on one side give it the heading at the top of the page that says “The Greek Team.” On the other side of the paper, make the heading at the top for “The Trojan Team.” As you read, make note of every new character you come across in every chapter. Write the name of that character (gods and humans) on the correct side of your chart. Include a word or two that tells who they are. For example: king of _____, wife of _____, god of _____, brother of _____, and so on.
2. **Please keep a reading journal** that you will turn in on the first day of school. You will need to **write a minimum of two sentences for each chapter.** Summary sentences work best, though you may add your own thoughts and opinions.

FORMAT

Please begin your journal with the following heading:

Luke Skywalker (your name)
Mr. Kenobi (teacher name)
Lightsaber 101 (class name like Humanities 7)
4 May 1977 (current date)

Summer Reading Journal (center this title)

1. Each number will then be the same as the chapter number. You will have at least two sentences for each number/chapter.

Do email Mrs. Norvell if you have any questions at christine.norvell@sageracademy.com.

Happy reading!