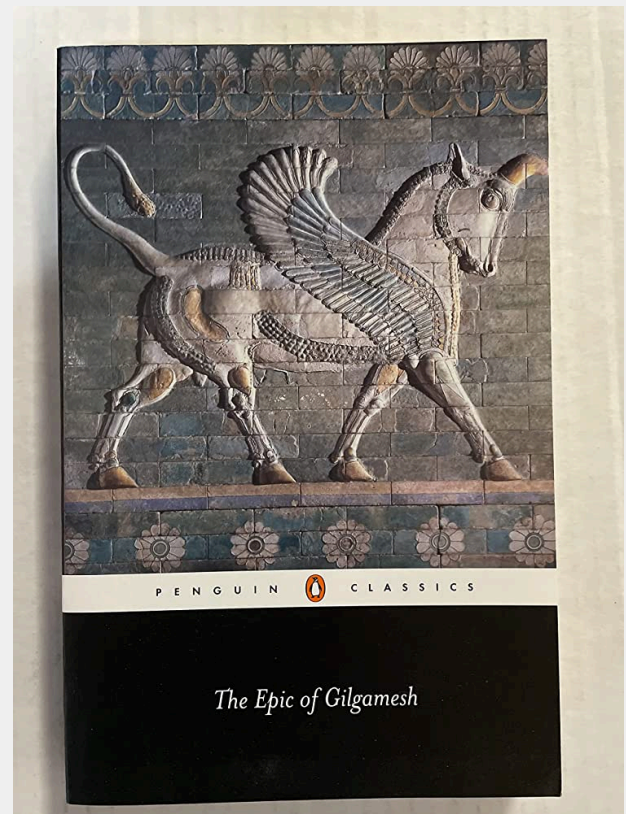


English 9H
Summer Reading Assignment
2025-2026

Background: English 9H emphasizes a global approach to literature, pairing works from China, South America, and the Middle East with the study of those regions' histories. In Global History I, you will begin the year studying Mesopotamia and the Sumerians. Your summer reading assignment was designed with this first unit in mind.

The Assigned Summer Reading: Begin by reading *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. I would recommend reading the introduction for context, but the epic itself begins on page 1 and ends on page 100. After reading, compose **an outline** for a timed in-class thesis-based essay which responds to your choice of one of the following questions, using the poem as support:

1. What does Gilgamesh and Enkidu's ongoing struggle with, and defiance of, the gods tell us about how the gods were viewed in Gilgamesh's time? Are the consequences that both characters face worth the risk each takes?
2. At various points in the story, dreams foretell events to come. What do these passages reveal about how dreams were valued in Mesopotamian culture? What do they tell us about the dreamer's state of mind?
3. Although Gilgamesh faces his own mortality upon Enkidu's death, he also must now face a life without his friend. Why is this also important? What does it teach Gilgamesh about life and the spirit of endurance?
4. Repetition is a frequent technique the author(s) used in the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, as is the theme of duality. Enkidu and Gilgamesh are near mirrors of each other, for example. They undertake two quests: one against Humbaba, the other against the Bull of Heaven. Discuss other examples of duality and repetition in the story. Why does the epic contain these elements?
5. What is the most important theme to emerge from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*? Which literary devices most effectively contribute to the communication of this message to its readers?



I have left copies of *The Epic of Gilgamesh* with Ms. Fuller in the main office of the high school.

You are also welcome to use [an online PDF](#), or to purchase your own copy.

-- TURN OVER --

Summer Assignment Details:

DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS:

❑ **Essay outline.** All outlines must include:

- a clear and argumentative thesis statement;
- topic sentences that will determine the focus of your body paragraphs;
- textual support (in the form of direct quotations) that you will use to either further develop/support your claim.

Please use [this template](#). Do not include any other information at this stage.

DUE BY THE END OF WEEK 2 (COMPLETED IN CLASS):

❑ **Thesis-based Essay.** Prior to your first essay submission, you will confer with me individually. We will thoroughly look at your outline, along with the [essay rubric](#), in order to recognize your draft's various strengths and areas for improvement.

Please do not come to class with a completed essay.

It is important for us to first look over the language on the rubric and to discuss my expectations for writing.

Your essay will be written in class at the end of the second week of school. It must be guided by a strong and original thesis that is expressed using clear and direct language. The structure of your essay's body will be determined by topic sentences, which define the focus of body paragraphs while tying them back to your thesis. Finally, you will make use of meaningful and relevant textual support from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, including direct quotations, and a conclusion that explores the broader implications of your topic.

All words and ideas that are not your own, be they direct quotations or paraphrases, must be properly cited using the MLA format. Include a works cited page. Should you have any questions regarding what to cite and how to cite it, consult [Purdue University's Online Writing Lab](#). The use of ChatGPT and/or any other form of AI is strictly prohibited and constitutes plagiarism. Please understand that if you do not come to class with an outline on the first day of class, you may be reassigned to a CP section of English.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you in August. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the summer assignment for English 9H, you may contact me via the email provided below. I will respond at my earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tavera

ttavera@region1schools.org