

British Literature
Summer Assignment

The summer assignment consists of two parts:

1. Read *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien. Please purchase the [William Morrow Paperbacks edition](#) (black color with yellow rings; ISBN: 978-0547928210). You must annotate your book.

2. Write an argumentative essay in response to one of the following prompts. The essay should be at least two full pages in length; double-spaced; Times New Roman, 12-point font; with one-inch margins. Avoid summarizing the plot; assume your reader already has a basic understanding of the characters and action. Use evidence from the text to support your position.
 - a. According to *The Fellowship of the Ring*, what does it mean to be a hero? Are there different kinds of heroes in the story?

 - b. What does *The Fellowship of the Ring* say about the nature of evil? In your answer, you might consider characters such as Gollum, Sauron, Boromir, the Black Riders, etc.

 - c. What place does Tom Bombadil have in this story? What does it mean that he is the “Eldest”? In what sense is he “innocent”? How would he relate to the Ring? Discuss the magic that surrounds him. What is his power? What role should/could he have in the coming conflict against Sauron?

Your book and essay will be collected on the first day of class. Late work will be penalized.