



**Ascent Classical Academy**  
**9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment**

**Required Reading**

To prepare for 9th grade literature, students are required to read *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, the Standard Version (pages 1-100 in Andrew George's translation).

**Book:** *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

**Translator:** Andrew George

**ISBN:** 9780140449198

Students may also consult N.K. Sanders's prose translation [here](#) as a supplementary text.

**Writing Prompt**

Choose **one** of the following prompts and write a 500 word response, typed in MLA style. Cite textual evidence (direct quotations) from *Gilgamesh* to support your response. Explain your ideas and how your quotations support those ideas. You may include connections from other literature or historical events that relate to *Gilgamesh*.

1. How should a person relate to others in a community? Discuss one of the human relationships represented in the epic -- friendship, family and marriage, a leader and country. What dangers or sorrows lie in isolation or lacking human community?
2. What does it mean to be civilized in *Gilgamesh*? How is civilization (or the civilized human) contrasted with wilderness, animals, or savagery in the epic? Discuss a character, symbol, or setting that illustrates this theme. You might also consider where the boundary between civilization and savagery breaks down.
3. How does Gilgamesh's ultimate quest for eternal life change him? Consider the role that suffering, grief, and failure plays in his personal (and heroic) journey.

### MLA Style

Please click [here](#) for guidelines on paper formatting. Quotations should be written in the following format, using Tablet (I-VI) and line numbers in parentheses and a slash (/) to indicate line breaks:

**The author of *Gilgamesh* writes,** “He came a far road, was weary, found peace, / and set all his labours on a tablet of stone” **(I.9-10).**

The bolded sections indicate what you need to add to the quotation to introduce it and cite it. You may also use quotation introductions such as “**The author writes,**” or “**Gilgamesh says,**” depending on who (the narrator or a character) is saying the lines. (You may also refer to the author as the poet.)

### Deadline

The assignment will be due on Monday, August 31, 2020, at the beginning of class. Please email Ms. Lind at [slind@ascentclassical.org](mailto:slind@ascentclassical.org) with questions.