



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

Required Reading

To prepare for 9th grade literature, students are required to read and annotate *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, the Standard Version (pages 1-100 in Andrew George's translation). Please consult the ACA Annotation Guide for more information on how to annotate.

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:

<http://l-adam-mekler.com/epic_gilgamesh.pdf>

Writing Prompt

Choose **one** of the following prompts and write a 500 word response, typed in APA style (double-spaced, Times New Roman, size 12). Cite textual evidence (at least 3 direct quotations) from *Gilgamesh* to support your response. Then, **explain** how your quotations illustrate or support your points. Be specific and think deeply. 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 lack of 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 heroic (and personal) journey.

APA Style

First, add a heading in the upper left hand corner:

Name

Teacher

Course

Date

To cite the text, write quotations in the following format, using page numbers in parentheses and a slash (/) to indicate line breaks:

The poet of *Gilgamesh* writes, “He came a far road, was weary, found peace, / and set all his labours on a tablet of stone” (p. 1).

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 poet writes**,” or “**Gilgamesh exclaims**,” depending on who (the narrator or a character) is saying the lines. (You may also refer to the poet as an author.) Please consult Ascent’s APA style guide for more information on APA style.

Deadline

The assignment will be due on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at the beginning of class. Please email Ms. Lind at slind@ascentclassical.org with questions.