

June 2025

Dear Boston Prep Rising 8th grade Students and Families,

As we close out this school year, we hope you all are well, and beginning to enjoy the warm summer sunshine.

At Boston Prep, reading and discussing rich, grade-level text is part of the core work we do each day. While reading for class is required, more importantly, we want all students to continually grow as readers and see their identities represented in what they read. One way we do this is through our summer reading program. In the books we assign over the summer months, we hope to foster a true love of reading with texts that are engaging and relevant.

We know that reading and discussing text is a crucial skill required for success in school, college and beyond. Reading during the summer preserves reading skills learned during the school year¹, as research shows that students who read over the summer retain more of what they learned during the school year and are more prepared for the grade level they are advancing into. Boston Prep is committed to raising up student voice in our classrooms and teaching students to do the hard thinking for themselves. Reading the texts over the summer helps to prepare our students for that challenging work ahead.

This summer we are asking students to complete different summer reading tasks at each level of middle school. For 8th grade, students will read one book to cover both ELA and History: *The Wanderings of Odysseus* by Rosemary Sutcliff. In choosing this text, we hope that students are able to continue to foster a love of reading, and engage with some topics that they will encounter throughout the 8th grade curriculum. In addition to reading the text, all middle school students are asked to complete annotation tasks while reading over the summer to prepare for class activities focused on the books during the first weeks of school.

As students read this summer, below are some suggested ways for families to engage with the texts and enjoy reading together:

- Pick a time to read with your student and discuss the events, topics or ideas that are detailed in the section you read.
- Ask your student to share a summary of their daily reading with you, perhaps over a meal.
- Suggest to your student that they take pictures of favorite parts of the text to share them with their new teacher as a way to introduce themselves.
- Invite your student to reach out to their peers to read together, or discuss parts of the text.

All students should **plan to bring their summer reading books and materials to school the first day back!**

All summer reading information is also available on the school's website, www.bostonprep.org. We thank you for your continued support; if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Happy Reading!

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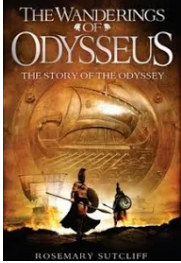
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¹ Smith, Lorna. "Slowing the Summer Slide."

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educationalleadership/dec11/vol69/num04/Slowing-the-Summer-Slide.aspx>

8th Grade Humanities

Summer Reading Assignment



Over the summer, you'll be reading *The Wanderings of Odysseus* by Rosemary Sutcliff. In the first week of classes, you'll have a chance to share the details of that text with your classmates and engage in both discussion and writing about the text. Read below for details on how to prepare for your first week of middle school!

How to Read to Prepare: As you read your summer reading text, keep track of what you're reading using the chart below. Your goal is to try to fill up as many of the boxes below as you can. Including one important quote every 2-3 chapters would give you a great base to start the year off!

Important Quotes / Ideas from the text (with page numbers)	My Commentary: What do you find interesting about this quote? What questions does it raise for you? What do you think people can learn about life based on this quote?

[illegible]

[illegible]