You are required to read at least three books this summer. One is *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien (Ballantine/Fantasy edition). You should read it toward the end of the summer since its content is related to work we do at the beginning of the school year. The other two books must be chosen from the “List of Suggested Books” provided below.

We strongly recommend that you read more than the required number of books. Additional books may come from the suggested list or be of your own choosing.

**Additional Assignments**

In addition to reading, each student is to

1. List on a sheet of loose-leaf paper all the books you read over the summer. Include the author's full name and the number of pages in each book.

2. After reading *The Hobbit*, choose one scene from the book. Then create a carefully crafted shoebox diorama that depicts the scene in some detail on a 5 X 8 index card and write a paragraph that identifies the scene, names the characters, and describes the events illustrated in the diorama. Give the paragraph a suitable title, write your name on it, and attach it to the box so that it is visible from the front.

   As you prepare your diorama, think ahead to the oral presentation you will make to the class. In this presentation, you will read your card, explain why you chose the scene, and discuss the materials and techniques you used in creating the diorama as well as how you solved whatever problems arose.

3. After you read the additional two books from the “List of Suggested Books,” write a word processed composition about one of them. In your typed composition, write a paragraph that summarizes the book (the beginning, the middle, and the end) and a second paragraph about your personal reaction to the story. End your typed composition with a short paragraph that tells whether or not you recommend the book for your classmates to read and why you do or do not recommend it.

   If the book is a collection of short stories, in the first paragraph, summarize three of the stories instead of the entire book.
The word processed composition should represent your best writing. It should be entirely YOUR own work; you should neither seek nor receive help. It should be word processed using the Times New Roman font in 12 point type.

4. Bring your book list, your diorama, your word processed composition, and your copy of The Hobbit to Humanities class on the first full day of classes. You should also be prepared to write a second composition in class on the other book you read during the summer.

List of Suggested Books

I, Robot by Isaac Asimov: fascinating tales of beyond tomorrow by the master of science fiction.

Usborne Illustrated Guide to Norse Myths and Legends by Cheryl Evans and Anne Millard (EDC Publishing): Wodan, Thor, Loki, and more come to life in this dramatically illustrated retelling of Norse myths.

April Morning by Howard Fast: a young man of revolutionary times confronts the death of his father and the ugliness of war.

King Solomon's Mines by Rider Haggard: an adventurer and his friends risk the perils of an unknown desert to find a fabled lost mine.

Anpao: An American Indian Odyssey by Jamake Hightower: based on native American myths, a hero searches for the home of the Sun to gain his heart's desire.

The Contender by Robert Lipsyte: a high-school dropout in Harlem discovers boxing and the meaning of manhood.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London: the story of a great-hearted dog and the man he loves.

The Dog Who Wouldn't Be by Farley Mowat: hilarious but true adventure of a boy and his dog on the Canadian prairie.

The Chosen by Chaim Potok: different strains of Judaism lead two Brooklyn boys to an appreciation of each other's rights of passage.

NOTE: Most of these books are available in paperback at local bookstores, and all are available in public libraries. Each student needs to have his own copy of The Hobbit but not any of the other books he reads. Several publishers print many of the above. All unabridged editions are acceptable.