

English I (Pre-AP and On-level)

Summer Reading List and Assignments

I.) Main Texts:

- 1.) Aristotle's Poetics (whole text) and Plato's Republic (only sections on "mimesis" in books II, III, and V of the Republic). Note: Google Aristotle's Poetics whole text and The Republic by Plato PDF

II.) Supplemental Texts:

- 1.) Oedipus Rex (Author: Sophocles)
- 2.) Medea (Author: Euripides)
- 3.) Freytag's Technique of the Drama: An Exposition of Dramatic Composition and Art, by Dr. Gustave Freytag: an authorized translation from the 6<sup>th</sup> German Edition by Elias J. MacEwan, MA, (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.), Chicago: Scott, Foresman and Co.
- 4.) William Shakespeare's play Macbeth.

III.) Assignment Options (please choose one of the following):

- 1.) Write a short compare and contrast essay (3 to 4 paragraphs) or create a detailed "T" chart (sample available online) to compare Sophocles's play Oedipus Rex and Euripides's play Medea using Aristotle's Poetics and Plato's Republic to support your argument.

Essential Questions: How are the plays similar? How are they different? What does Aristotle say about each play? Which play does Aristotle think is better and why?

- 2.) Using Freytag's Pyramid of Dramatic Structure (available online), map the plot of William Shakespeare's play Macbeth. Does it form to the dramatic theories of Freytag and Aristotle? If so, in what way?
- 3.) Using Freytag's Pyramid *and* Aristotle's Poetics analyze the plot of a modern one-hour T.V. drama (note: do not choose a "serial" continuing drama, but rather a self-contained episode of a serious dramatic episodic series).

All texts may be purchased at *Politics and Prose* or borrowed from the Public Library as e-books. Texts may also be downloaded directly from the internet, since most are now in the "public domain."

Please email: [vanessa.snyder@dc.gov](mailto:vanessa.snyder@dc.gov) if you have additional questions.