

# English IV Summer Reading

## What Makes a Hero?

In English IV, we will start the year by looking at the qualities of heroes and reading about some famous heroes in British literature. For summer reading, you must read a book about a hero. It can be a work of fiction or nonfiction. It can be about a modern-day hero, someone in history, or someone completely made up. The only requirement is that the book be at least 100 pages long.

As you read your book, you must complete a few key tasks:

1. Write your own definition of what makes a hero.
2. Keep a log of the traits of a hero that the main character or person (people) the book is about shows. Whenever you see something in the book related to a hero (or the opposite of what a hero would do), write it down and include a brief comment about it. Be sure to include the page number. You must have at least 15 entries.

Organize your log by drawing a line down the middle of the page.

Quote or detail (and page number)	Comment

3. When you finish the book, you must write a short essay (3-4 pages double-spaced) OR record a 3-5 minute video explaining whether the main character or person your book is about is a hero. You must reference your definition of a hero AND cite specific examples from the book to support your position.

If you need help choosing a book, some suggested titles include:

*The Iliad or The Odyssey* by Homer

*Triumph* by Janet and Geoff Benge

*The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* by Howard Pyle

*Captains Courageous* by Rudyard Kipling

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes

*Don Quixote* by Cervantes

*Ben-Hur* by Lew Wallace

*The Three Musketeers* by Dumas

*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

*The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fennimore Cooper

*The Aeneid* by Virgil

*Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose

*American Sniper* by Chris Kyle

