

Classical Civilisation – Reading List

Classical Civilisation allows you to study the ancient worlds of Greece and Rome. You will study the history of these two great ancient world powers including key individuals, moral stories and historical events. You will also have the opportunity to study great pieces of literature and plays.

- **Herodotus – Histories**

- Herodotus was a widely travelled historian and wrote events of all he saw.
- He heavily relied on oral history for his work
- He set out the following for his motivation to write - *The purpose is to prevent the traces of human events from being erased by time, and to preserve the fame of the important and remarkable achievements produced by both Greeks and non-Greeks*
- Herodotus also wrote many stories with a moral message to many of them

- **Thucydides – History of the Peloponnesian Wars**

- Thucydides wrote accounts of the Peloponnesian Wars
- He himself was in the army, so had first-hand information
- He was very fond of Greek statesman and General Pericles and wrote a lot about him, including a famous speech known as the *Funeral Oration*.

- **Plutarch – Parallel Lives**

- In this book, profiles about key Greeks and Romans are written
- Plutarch wrote his work retrospectively and tried to draw comparisons between the Greeks and the Romans throughout his work

- **Suetonius – The Twelve Caesars**

- Suetonius writes about Julius Caesar as well as the first 11 emperors of Rome.
- The work was written during the reign of Emperor Hadrian in 121AD.
- Therefore the work was written retrospectively and discusses both positives and negatives of the emperors.

- **Tacitus – Annals:**

- A history of the Roman Empire from the reign of Tiberius to that of Nero, the years AD 14–68. The work of Tacitus is highly regarded by modern historians

- **Homer – The Iliad**

- Epic poem about the final parts of the Trojan War and the Greek siege of the city of Troy

- **Virgil – The Aeneid**
 - Epic poem written which includes a variety of legends about key individuals, including Aeneas and makes him the founder of Roman greatness.

- **Sophocles – Ajax**
 - Ancient Greek tragedy play, follows the life of the warrior Ajax
 - The warrior Ajax becomes angry at fellow warriors Agamemnon and Menelaus and kills them
 - He then has a poor fate and falls at the hand of the Gods

- **Aeschylus – Agamemnon**
 - Ancient Greek tragedy play, follows the homecoming of Agamemnon, the King of Mycenae after the Trojan War.
 - The Trojan Wars lasted 10 years and Agamemnon's wife Clytemnestra was annoyed he had been gone so long and she felt that her husband no longer loved her and was going to bring back a concubine
 - Clytemnestra planned the murder of Agamemnon as he was at war

- **Euripides – Medea**
 - Ancient Greek tragedy play, based upon the myth of Jason and Medea.
 - Medea feels in a weak position as her husband Jason leaves her for a Corinthian princess

- **Euripides – Trojan Women**
 - Ancient Greek tragedy play, this follows the lives of women from Troy after their city has been sacked by the Athenians.
 - It follows the lives of women and how their future turns out
 - Depicts the strong determination of the Trojan women.