



TENTH GRADE REQUIRED SUMMER READING 2025

TEXT - Please buy the specific edition listed below (publisher, year, and ISBN).

The Consolation of Philosophy by Boethius, translated by Victor Watts ([ISBN: 978-0140447804](#), Penguin Classics)

[Note: Students need only read the introduction and **Books 1-4** and not any of the additional contexts and critical essays]

ASSIGNMENT

Reading Guide: (must be legibly handwritten – worth 100 points)

1. Do not read passively. Have a pencil ready to engage in conversation with a writer who wants to convince you of something.
2. Head your notes properly:
 - a. Write the title. Is there a subtitle? (It normally provides more detail). (5)
 - b. Write the Author's, Translator's names, and any valuable info about him or her (see intro). (5)
 - c. Summarize the Introduction: it provides the main idea or background of the book. (15)
 - d. Observe the Table of Contents: it is the map of the book.
3. Underline and annotate as you read. Write questions you have or things you disagree with and why.
4. Record words you don't already know (at least 5 per Book), look them up, and write their definitions. (25)
5. After you read each Book, outline Lady Philosophy's questions and Boethius' answers, what values and ideas do they defend or attack? (30)
6. Look for internal connections between books and write them down. (10)
7. Make a list of characters: their names, ages, status, relationships, etc. (10)

Big Picture Questions: (be prepared to discuss these questions by writing your answer in a few sentences)

1. Based on the characters' actions or thoughts, what does the author believe about God? Does he or she believe God exists? If so, in what kind of God does the author believe?
2. What does the author believe about ultimate reality? Is there anything beyond the physical universe? Is the physical universe all there is?
3. What does the author believe about knowledge and how we come by it? Does he or she believe in absolute truth? Does he or she believe there are truths whether anyone believes them or not?
4. What does the author believe about morality (right and wrong) and making judgments? Are right and wrong the same for everybody? Upon what standard do the characters base their judgments?
5. What does the author believe about the nature of humanity? Do people have any worth? What contrasts between characters highlight differences in human worth, status, or growth?
6. What does the author believe about the point of history? Do things happen for a reason? Do historical events matter?

Due: The first day of your section's literature class during the week of August 18.