

Book Report/Review

Purchase the ebook, borrow it digitally from the library, order from an online bookstore, etc. If you cannot afford to purchase a book, please contact me and we can figure something out.

Whichever book you choose, you will be comparing the source material and answering a series of questions posed by me, as it relates to the ancient material. You will read the reviews others have published and then review the book as a modern work, again, with questions posed by me.

SPRING COVID-19 CLOSURE: We will be foregoing the presentation portion of the assignment.

Your report/review will be composed of two parts, comparative and modern. 1” margins, Times New Roman font, 12pt font, double spaced, 4-5 pages maximum. Your notes may be point form rather than full sentences. Notes should be at least one page each for ancient works and the modern work.

Grade Breakdown

Notes on Ancient Work(s)	15	
Notes on Modern Work		15
3 Reviews Consulted	5	
Report/Review		50
Presentation	15	

Comparative: Ancient and Modern

- identify which ancient sources your “reimagining” is drawing on
- read ALL of those sources
- read your work of fiction (it is important to read the ancient sources first, so that you recognize them in your work of fiction, or, read the fiction first, read the ancient sources, then read your work of fiction again)
- create a glossary of important characters
- identify and list themes
- write comparative report

Questions to Consider/What to Do

1. Why is the author engaging with this ancient work?
2. How does the author engage with the ancient work? Is it multi-layered, or just surface engagement?
3. Does the author misrepresent, edit, alter, etc. the ancient work, and why? Is it deliberate, or does the author not seem completely familiar with the source material?
 - a. if deliberate, why?
4. Do a close comparison: compare characters, scenes, themes as closely as possible on a 1:1 basis; how have these elements been adapted?

5. How does reading the modern piece alter or nuance your understanding of the original source? A good piece of reception will open your eyes to elements of the original you did not think about initially.

Modern: As a work of fiction

- thoroughly read the book
- read it again, taking notes, highlighting, making marginalia
- compose an outline of your review
- write review

Questions to Consider/What to Do

1. Summarize the work
2. Evaluate the positive aspects and the negative aspects (note: “book is too long” or “boring” are not effective evaluations)
3. Critique the author’s engagement with the ancient work, considering how it is relevant to modern readers - why engage with this ancient work, and why should modern readers care?
4. What is problematic? Why is it problematic? According to what criteria?
5. Read other reviews online - what did other reviewers say? Do you agree or disagree? (Note: find some reviews outside of Amazon and Goodreads, please)
 - link reviews in your bibliography
6. Evaluate which age levels this book is appropriate for and why. Offer content warnings.
7. Offer suggestions for further reading (or viewing)

The best review of each modern work will be featured on Diotíma. That student will receive 3 extra credit points to be added to any test.