Condensed Version of the AP Latin Summer Assignment

Part 1: Read the Odyssey, preferably Stanley Lombardo’s translation (Fairfax County Public Library has dozens of copies of this); you are more mature readers than you were in 9th grade, and it is imperative that you have at least a passing familiarity with the Odyssey the way Vergil’s audience would have. There are no written assignments for this; just read it, don’t watch the movie from the 90s and maybe keep a copy around until we finish with Vergil next year.

Part 2: Read the first six books of the Aeneid, definitely Stanley Lombardo’s translation – I will get you copies of this. Six of the seven AP Latin themes can be discussed in translation, and those six themes are: Roman Values; War and Empire; Leadership; Views of Non-Romans; History and Memory; Human Beings and the Gods. Pick any three of these six themes and tell me what you think Vergil thinks about them. Support your position with quotes from throughout books 1-6; if you read the rest of the Aeneid and also use material from books 7-12, that’s fine. You are responsible for books 1-6 on the AP exam, though, so be sure you read them carefully.

This paper will be due the second week of school. I guess you could do it after school starts, but I advise against it.

ALSO: This is 100% optional. If you want, we can read some Caesar in Latin together over the summer. We can coordinate meetings at the public library. Contact me at bcmuse@fcps.edu or therealmagistermuse@gmail.com if you are interested in this.