

Classic Works of the Imagination

Assignment 1

- Memorize stanza 1 of “To Autumn” by John Keats.
- The “Classic Works” course textbook is titled “Speaking in Symbols,” indicating that the selections that you will be reading this year have a significance beyond the plot line and character delineation. In fact, unless you know the symbolic or allegorical significance of these works, you will be merely chewing on the bone and not the meat of the work.
- Read selected fables by Aesop and selected fairy tales by Grimm in your reader, due next lesson. Although generally speaking, the tales were not composed with any symbolic or allegorical significance in mind—in fact, they were handed down orally, not written—, psychologists, such as Jung and Freud, tell us they have an *unconscious* symbolic meaning. Review your notes on Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud as well as the terms Freudian and Jungian analysis of literature.
- Following the examples of the fables that you have read, you will be writing your own fable. You can look at fables written by **past students online** and use them as examples for your own. The assignment will be due on the fourth week of September. In just two weeks, you will be reading the most famous allegorical fables ever written, *Animal Farm*.
- Complete the study guide material on the material read.
- On the upper right is a manuscript of a 1485 Italian edition of *Aesopus Moralisatus*.



Long-Range Assignment

- The fable assignment will be due on the fourth week of September. Please email me if you have any questions, or better yet, raise your hand in class!