



# MILLER SCHOOL of ALBEMARLE

## Summer Reading Assignment

**Course:** Ancient and Medieval History

**Grade:** 9th

**Teacher:** Mr. Thomas Fickley

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**Required Book(s):** *The Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff  
(ISBN: 9780312644291)

What happened to the Ninth Legion? The Roman army disappeared from northern England in the early 100s. Did they die fighting in Britain? Did they return to the European continent? Did they die half a world away fighting the Parthian Empire? Or was the IX Hispana called away to Palestine and destroyed in the Bar Kochba Revolt of 132?

Rosemary Sutcliff's classic 1954 novel *The Eagle of the Ninth* tells the fictional story of Marcus Flavius Aquila, who tries to discover the fate of his father's legion in Roman Britain.

Your assignment this summer is to read *The Eagle of the Ninth* and answer the following three questions. Your responses should be 150-200 words each.

1. Marcus feels friendly towards his hunting guide Cradoc, and he feels betrayed when the hunter joins the revolt. How does Marcus understand Cradoc better after living among the Celts?
2. What is the relationship like between Marcus and Cottia? Why is the chapter in which they meet called "Two Worlds Meeting"? Compare and contrast their worlds.
3. [RESEARCH ON THE WEB] What do you think *really* happened to the Ninth Legion? Make sure you copy down what websites you use as sources.

**Your answers are due on the first day of class, typed, in hard copy. Please include a heading with your name, the date for the first day of class, and the title of this course.**

Happy reading!

Note on cheating/plagiarism: For this assignment, it is expected that you (A) read the entire book and (B) do *not* search online guides (SparkNotes, CliffNotes, etc.) or other online essays in order to answer questions about the plot. Your answers to questions 1 and 2 should be based on your reading of the book alone. Only question 3 involves online research, and that research will be historical in nature. Also, there is a Hollywood movie rendition of the story. It is well done and interesting. I encourage you to watch it. However, if you watch the movie instead of reading the novel, you will not be able to satisfactorily answer the questions above.