

**Detailed suggestions for A LEVEL recommended reading:**

**Mahābhārata (MBh) translated by K.M. Ganguli in 12 Vols. and Rāmāyana (R) translated by H.P. Shastri in 3 Vols.**

- **MBh – Synopsis of Plot.** MBh Vol. 1 p. 118-129 Adivansavatarana Parva cont. Vaisampayana said, Bowing down in the first place to my preceptor with the eight parts of my body touching the ground...  
.....In that great battle of the Kurus came hundreds of thousands of monarchs for fighting against one another....history.”
- **Śakuntalā.** MBh Vol. 1 Ādi Parva p.147-163 Sambhava Parva cont  
Janamejaya said: I desire to hear from thee about the birth and life of the high-souled Bharata and of the origin of Sakuntala. ....I shall name the principal ones that were blessed with great good fortune, like unto the gods, and devoted to truth and honesty.”
- **Churning of the Ocean.** (SB)<sup>1</sup> Vol. 2 p. 317-334
- **Svayamvara of Draupadī.** MBh Vol. 1 p.369-381 Vaisampayana said Then those tigers.....The auspicious Draupadi shall be the common wife of us all.”
- **Sāvitrī story.** MBh Vol. 3 Vana Parva p. 570-585 Yudhishtira said, I do not so much grieve for myself or these my brothers or the loss of my kingdom as I do for this daughter of Drupada....The man that listeneth with reverence to the excellent story of Savitri attaineth to happiness and success in everything and never meeteth with misery!
- **The Dice Game and the attempted disrobing of Draupadī.** MBh Vol. II p. 116-135 Vaisampayana said, When the play commenced, all those kings with Dhritarashtra at their head took their seats in that assembly.....And thereupon Duhsasana began to drag Krishna before all the spectators, the helpless and modest Draupadi, trembling and crying piteously unto the Pandavas her lords.
- **Kīcaka.** MBh Vol. IV p. 23-43 Kīcaka-badha Parva

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<sup>1</sup> Śrīmad Bhāgavata - translated by Swami Tapasyananda, Volumes 1 to 4, Sri Ramakrishna Math

Vaisampayana said, Living in such disguise, those mighty warriors, the sons of Pritha passed ten months in Matsyas's city. .... and where are his legs? And beholding him in this plight they all concluded that he had been killed by a Gandharva.

- **Abhimanyu.** MBh Vol VI p. 87-105 Dhritarastra said, My heart, O Sanjaya, is agitated with different emotions, viz shame and gratification, upon hearing that Subhadra's son singly held in check.....

.....he hath gone to the bright regions of the righteous, regions that men acquire by meritorious deeds.”

- Introduction to Rāmāyaṇa and read synopsis of plot. R. Vol. 1 p. 3-9
- Kaikeyī. R. Vol 1 p. 172-186
- Rāma's departure. R. Vol. 1 p. 256-280
- Sāgara Story. R Vol 1 p. 81-93
- Mārīca. R. Vol. II p. 76-92
- Sītā in the Aśoka Grove. R. Vol. II p. 372-390
- Rāvaṇa defeated. R. Vol. III p. 312-327