

# SEQUITUR SYNOPSIS

March 2024

By Thaddeaus Swart



Students isolated and exploded hydrogen

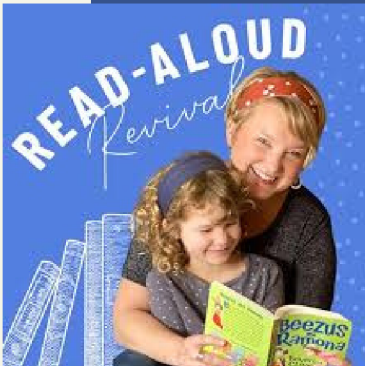
The school turns out for a chemistry demonstration with Mrs. DeMaris and the 10th Grade Class



## CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS

- **PROSPECTIVE PARENT MEETING** APRIL 9, 2024
- **PARENT COFFEE** APRIL 17, 2024 @ 8 AM IN THE LIBRARY
- **PARENT ORIENTATION 2024/2025**—APRIL 29, 2024 @ 6:30 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM
- **SENIOR THESIS NIGHTS** [UPDATED] MAY 7-9, 2024—SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE NIGHTS OF SENIOR THESIS PRESENTATIONS. MORE DETAILS TO COME.
- **SPRING CHAPEL** MAY 15, 2024 @ 9 A.M. CHAPEL WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY OF CHURCH OF THE KING
- **SENIOR GRADUATION** MAY 15, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M. GRADUATION WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY OF CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH
- **BOOK BUY BACK** MAY 16, 2024 @ 10 AM-1 PM IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING

## WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO



**Read-Aloud Revival**  
podcast  
*RAR #157: Why Read Aloud to Kids Who Can Read Themselves?*

Do you feel like audiobooks don't count or is a shortcut and is somehow cheating? When was the last time you read out loud to your logic or rhetoric student?

Sarah Mackenzie is a homeschool mom who seeks to kids fall in love with books, and she has some excellent reasearch, resources, and recommendations.

[readaloudrevival.com/why](http://readaloudrevival.com/why)

## WHAT WE'RE READING

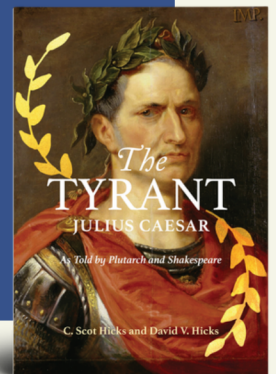
*The Tyrant* by C. Scot Hicks and David V. Hicks

This is the third in a series of comparative works based on figures in Plutarch's *Lives*.

The Hicks brothers have set out to free Plutarch's work from the lifeless English translations that are most widely available.

They do this by comparison, a skill we seek to develop in Logic and Rhetoric.

This one is interesting because it compares the same figure in two separate works: Julius Casar as depicted by Plutarch and the Julius Caesar of Shakespeare's dramatic work.



## Conferences:

### ACCS REPAIRING THE RUINS

June 19-22, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

[repairingtheruins.org](http://repairingtheruins.org)

### CiRCE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

July 17-20, 2024 | Charleston, SC

[circeinstitute.org/events/a-contemplation-of-prudence/](http://circeinstitute.org/events/a-contemplation-of-prudence/)

We are looking into hosting a remote viewing of this conference



CiRCE's annual online Dwell Conference for women: mothers, homeschooling mothers, teachers, women in all stages of life.

Over four sessions in April, participants will contemplate Psalm 90, and be encouraged to continue the good work that is before them as they seek to nurture their families and create a home in which the beauty of the Lord dwells.

more info:

<https://circeinstitute.org/events/2024-dwell-online-conference/>

# Eucatastrophe

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

God presenting himself as the Word, and revealing himself to his people through the narrative of the Bible is foundational to our studies of literature, history, and grammar. As Christians, we are, after all, people of the Book.

We should love words. Love language. Love story.

Shakespeare did. He was a lover of words, have penned at least 884,647 words in 37 confirmed plays. It is believed that Shakespeare created as many as 17,000 words.

Milton did. Paradise Lost alone has over 11,000 lines of poetry. That’s not even counting Paradise Regained or his other writings. He is credited with inventing a modest 630 words.

One thing both had in common was a mastery of multiple languages. This comes in handy when you are looking for the perfect word, but you can’t seem to come up with one. These words are not pulled out of thin air. They are built of word parts already known to the reader. They seem to naturally be a word.

One of my favorite words created by an English master of languages comes from John Ronald Reuel Tolkien. His great contribution is the word “eucatastrophe,” and it is particularly fitting for today.

“The word “catastrophe” has been in English usage since the middle of the 16th century, but it was originally from the Greek (kata—“down”, strophe —“turning”). Tolkien blended this with the prefix eu—from the Greek meaning “good or well” to create a word that describes a sudden turn in events that prevents the protagonist from experiencing some impending doom. Often, this event in itself seems awful, but the results are unimaginably beneficial.

When Gandalf, Bilbo, and the Dwarves are plucked from the upper limbs of the trees by the great eagles, with fire, wargs, and goblins below, there was no certainty that it was to their advantage. Tolkien makes this clear when describing the eagles, stating “Eagles are not kindly birds. Some are cowardly and cruel.” This is perhaps the most obvious example of eucatastrophe in Tolkien’s writings, but it was not the archetype of the concept. It was a mere shadow of the greatest eucatastrophe in all of literature.

**“The Resurrection was the greatest ‘eucatastrophe’ possible in the greatest Fairy Story—and produces that essential emotion: Christian joy which produces tears because it is qualitatively so like sorrow, because it comes from those places where Joy and Sorrow are at one, reconciled, as selfishness and altruism are lost in Love.” – JRR Tolkien, Letter 89**



*The Entombment of Christ by Caravaggio*

We needed a word for this. There needed to be a word for the range of emotions felt by the disciples and followers of Jesus over those three days—a word for feeling that all hope is lost, that Jesus had died, and then realizing everything he said was coming to fruition when the tomb was empty and he was raised from the dead.

We needed a word that accurately captures the phoenix scenario that we see in literature. Everything is burned to ashes, but out of that death and destruction comes new life.

He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

Thank God for the great eucatastrophe!