

# SEQUITUR SYNOPSIS

August 2023

By Thaddeaus Swart



## NEWS FOR THE MONTH

- The 9th-12th grade just returned from their camping trip on Sunday, August 27th. Included in this month's Sequitur Synopsis are photos of a really incredible trip.
- Aftercare will start next Tuesday. If you have not already signed up, but you are interested, please contact Bridget Dunbar or Erika Price.

## WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO

### Podcast

HeightsCast: Forming Men Fully Alive  
Tom Steenson on Classroom Tone and Culture

Insight from a classical educator and father on how those roles are distinct yet overlap.

### Audiobook

*The Dragon's Tooth* (Ashtown Burials Book I) by N.D. Wilson

Not everything we listen to is weighty and serious. This is a great juvenile adventure, the likes of *The Magician's Nephew*, set in an ordinary setting, with extraordinary happenings. Great on the road listen, if you are traveling this weekend.



## WHAT WE'RE READING

Our Logic & Rhetoric students had to read *The Fellowship of the Ring* for summer reading. Many of our faculty read it as well. We made common place entries on the themes of truth, goodness, and beauty. As Frodo questions what is true, he tells Merry and Sam, "I'll never believe you're sleeping again, whether you snore or not. I'll kick you hard to make sure" (Ch. 5). That's a hobbit equivalent of trust, but verify.



## Conferences:

### LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS – GEORGIA

POWDER SPRINGS, GA • October 20-21, 2023

<https://circeinstitute.org/events/lift-up-your-hearts-2/>

ONE OF THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEQUITUR AND OTHER SCHOOLS IS HOW WE GRADE COMPLETED WORK. THE FIRST TIME A STUDENT RECEIVES A PAPER BACK THAT HAS A "CH" WRITTEN ACROSS THE TOP, HE MAY THINK IT IS THE RESULT OF SOME TERRIBLY ILLEGIBLE HANDWRITING ON THE TEACHER'S PART, AS HE TRIES TO DECIPHER IF IT IS POSSIBLY A "C+". THEN, HE ASKS HIS NEIGHBOR WHAT IT MEANS. WHEN SHE SAYS, "CUM HONORE," HE ASKS, "WHAT IS THAT IN REAL GRADES?"

IF IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET, IT WILL BY NEXT WEEK. AND, THE TEMPTATION IS TO ASK THAT QUESTION—WHAT IS THIS IN "REAL" GRADES, OR WHAT PERCENTAGE DOES THAT TRANSLATE TO. PLEASE DON'T. INSTEAD, ASK YOURSELF WHAT THE TEACHER IS TRYING TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU. GETTING AN "A" IS MEANINGLESS. IT HAS NO INHERENT MEANING. GETTING AN "SCL" TELLS YOU THAT YOU COMPLETED YOUR WORK WITH HIGHEST PRAISE, YOU WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND EXPECTATIONS.

| Mark | Latin                   | English                 | Percent ages |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SCL  | Summa Cum Laude         | With Great Praise       | 96-100       |
| CL   | Cum Laude               | With Praise             | 90-95.9      |
| SCH  | Summo Cum Honore        | With Great Honor        | 87-89.9      |
| CH   | Cum Honore              | With Honor              | 84-86.9      |
| MCH  | Minore Cum Honore       | With Lesser Honor       | 80-83.9      |
| SCS  | Summa Cum Sufficientia  | With Great Sufficiency  | 77-79.9      |
| CS   | Cum Sufficientia        | With Sufficiency        | 74-76.9      |
| MCS  | Minore Cum Sufficientia | With Lesser Sufficiency | 70-73.9      |
| CD*  | Cum Deficientia         | With Deficiency         | 60-69.9      |
| M*   | Minime                  | Minimal                 | 0-59.9       |

IT MAY SEEM SILLY AND ARBITRARY AT FIRST THAT WE HAVE MADE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN QUANTITATIVE GRADING AND QUALITATIVE GRADING. AND, I ADMIT IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO BE SOLD ON IT. BUT, AS A TEACHER, I HAVE GROWN TO REALLY APPRECIATE IT. A "C" HAS A STIGMA ATTACHED TO IT. STUDENTS AND PARENTS ALIKE OFTEN FEEL THAT IT IS NOT A VERY GOOD GRADE. BUT, "CS," OR "CUM SUFFICIENTIA" MEANS "WITH SUFFICIENCY". IT DOESN'T MEAN THE WORK WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. IT MEANS THAT THE STUDENT DID WHAT WAS REQUIRED AND IT WAS SUFFICIENT. FOR SOME STUDENTS, THAT MAY BE ALL THEY ARE CAPABLE OF ON A GIVEN ASSIGNMENT, AND THE GRADE INDICATES THAT, "GREAT JOB, YOU MADE IT! YOU FINISHED THE ASSIGNMENT, AND IT HAS BEEN DEEMED ADEQUATE." FOR OTHERS, THAT "CS" MEANS, "YOU DID WHAT WAS MINIMALLY REQUIRED, BUT YOU DID NOT PUT YOUR BEST EFFORTS FORWARD, AND WE BOTH KNOW THAT." GIVING A STUDENT A "C" JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME EFFECT, AND IT COMMUNICATES VERY LITTLE TO THE STUDENT.

