**Summer holiday work for Classical Civilisation – The Roman Republic**

Mike Duncan – *History of Rome* podcast

Listen to as much as you can of this Podcast – you can find it on Spotify, or on Apple, etc. …

Episodes 29-52 would be particularly relevant to what we are studying in the Roman Republic, but the whole thing is well worth listening to. Each episode is only 15 minutes, so great to delve into whenever you have a moment (car journeys etc.!).

Here are two books about the Republic – try to read one or the other – or indeed both! Mr Crosby particularly recommends listening to Mike Duncan as an audiobook.

Mike Duncan – *The Storm before the Storm*

In 146 BC, Rome finally emerged as the strongest power in the Mediterranean. But the very success of the Republic proved to be its undoing. The republican system was unable to cope with the vast empire Rome now ruled: rising economic inequality disrupted traditional ways of life, endemic social and ethnic prejudice led to clashes over citizenship and voting rights, and rampant corruption and ruthless ambition sparked violent political clashes that cracked the once indestructible foundations of the Republic.  
  
Chronicling the years 146-78 BC, The Storm Before the Storm dives headlong into the first generation to face this treacherous new political environment. Abandoning the ancient principles of their forbears, men like Marius, Sulla, and the Gracchi brothers set dangerous new precedents that would start the Republic on the road to destruction and provide a stark warning about what can happen to a civilization that has lost its way.

Listen to the audiobook if you can – but the book itself is here as well. <https://www.audible.co.uk/pd/The-Storm-Before-the-Storm-Audiobook/B0747W34CF>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Storm-Before-Beginning-Roman-Republic/dp/1541724038/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=>

Tom Holland – *Rubicon*

The Roman Republic was the most remarkable state in history. What began as a small community of peasants camped among marshes and hills ended up ruling the known world. Rubicon paints a vivid portrait of the Republic at the climax of its greatness - the same greatness which would herald the catastrophe of its fall.  
It is a story of incomparable drama. This was the century of Julius Caesar, the gambler whose addiction to glory led him to the banks of the Rubicon, and beyond; of Cicero, whose defence of freedom would make him a byword for eloquence; of Spartacus, the slave who dared to challenge a superpower; of Cleopatra, the queen who did the same.  
Tom Holland brings to life this strange and unsettling civilization, with its extremes of ambition and self-sacrifice, bloodshed and desire. Yet alien as it was, the Republic still holds up a mirror to us. Its citizens were obsessed by celebrity chefs, all-night dancing and exotic pets; they fought elections in law courts and were addicted to spin; they toppled foreign tyrants in the name of self-defence. Two thousand years may have passed, but we remain the Romans' heirs.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Rubicon-Triumph-Tragedy-Roman-Republic/dp/034911563X/ref=pd_bxgy_img_sccl_1/260-6394486-1363962?pd_rd_w=utsZA&content-id=amzn1.sym.79b812bf-5c8b-4c0c-851c-784423adaff5&pf_rd_p=79b812bf-5c8b-4c0c-851c-784423adaff5&pf_rd_r=XJP3DZABDYP6GZ9VT6EH&pd_rd_wg=xQOBd&pd_rd_r=4468ab88-b222-4bea-9be0-744da29e9a87&pd_rd_i=034911563X&psc=1>