Classic Candidate for Classics

CLASSICS topping every page & screen as I prepared for next semester, plus my plan—each course to read first off The Hill We Climb—demanded two agendas: CLASSICS query & account for, meanwhile candidate for classic rank Amanda’s upward calling ode.

Ambition got the candidate elected via Blackboard, Zoom, where students took her text as urgent, timely, many owning too her style not merely rap but psalmic, latter layer cued by hint to parse her corresponsive verses via ‘Laws of Bishop Lowth’ (said mouth not growth). My students likewise thrilled themselves to find Amanda vying—intertexting Lin Miranda, Maya Angelou, & Micah: thrilled by outing poets vying, rivalry owned & therefore banked to own again in Homer—matched by prose pretending greater war sans myth, & rivaled, censored too by philosophic kvetching διάλογος ever vying to consign olde epic μύθος to the shadows.

Present scrip prefigures Power Point shared each class to query topping screens with CLASSICS—Wondering Where from, When, by Whom, for What & Why one caption, ‘CLASSICS,’ claims Democracy, Tyranny, Empire, likewise Myths of Greece & Rome, though Roots from Latin & Greek in English Language: queries set a Rubric for Reading {RfR}—five W’s cue & counsel margins marked to migrate items into journals, thread in order, file in order to recount, account—computing how to study: make your own & meditate exchange of what you’ve owned with others.

Roots at Rome for later, lectures first find CLASSICS twice conflicted:
{I} called too colorfast to keep its pride of place atop our screen-tops;
{II} clarion incandescent screed via violent, turbulent, bullying factions;
{III} twice thus minus, plus when owned at work in our own language—crisis, query, problem, logic, argue, certain, inspire, envision—Greek & Latin figure in common English like some classic shipwrecks haunting Mediterranean bottoms till George Bass (at rest from vying) ventured risky dives retrieving treasure: so to own linguistic measure now must Classics strive for stock in language lain encrusted, but—retrieved & burnished—nurture for the climb beside Amanda.

[Following hints at arguments in 20 slides of Power Point, 2,834 words].

Mediterranean, terra, tierra, terroir, ‘territory’ tracking emigrant empire up through Europe, continent named for raped Europa, Asian immigrant: stereotypical plots—migration, quest, rape, mirroring human feats & foibles, all too human: Zeus πάτηρ like Jupiter—one, the same, yet Argive Io, great-great-grandmère to Europa, raped by her great-great-grandad Zeus, while Jupiter’s great-great-ever so Romulus murdered brother, founded Rome, connived at Sabine demigration—Hersilia’s craft engrafting Romulus’ salty riverine entrepôt with ordo, ‘first thread’ {mother to metaphors}: ‘row, line, ranking’ (field & legion), “first class” (forum).