

Dear Twelfth Grade Students and Parents:

Welcome to Twelfth Grade English! This summer you will be required to read two books to fulfill your summer reading obligation. **Students entering 12th grade must complete by the first day of school, August 12, 2019, the required books.** The specific guidelines for students entering twelfth grade are outlined below:

1. Read the required 12th grade book, *Beowulf* Translated by Seamus Heaney. The written assignment will accompany this reading and the book will be discussed in the fall.
2. ***In addition to this book***, students must also read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Complete reading it by the first day of school, August 12, 2019.
3. Students must complete the attached written assignment for *Beowulf* and turn it in on the first day of school, August 12, 2019. Students intending to enroll in the honors section of the course must also complete the assignment for *Frankenstein*. This assignment will also be due on the first day of school.
4. **Turn in the written assignment(s) on the first day of school, August 12, 2019.** The written assignment will be graded for neatness and accuracy. **There will be a 10% grade reduction in the grade for each day the assignment is late.** A major test covering both novels will be given the first week of school; therefore, we suggest that you wait until closer to the start of the year to read the required book and complete the written assignment.

If you have any questions, please email Ms. Dillon at kdillon@ccgvca.org during the summer. Have a safe and happy summer, and enjoy your summer reading.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Dillon

High School English Department

British Literature Summer Reading Assignment
Ms. Dillon
kdillon@ccgvca.org

This assignment is due on the first day of school. On the second day of school, you will have a test on the book.

Over the summer, secure and read Seamus Heaney's translation of *Beowulf*.

Choose one question from each section below and compose a well-crafted, one-page, multi-paragraph response to each including cited contextual evidence and extensive commentary. Do not research your answers, but format your responses in APA style. For an example of heading, spacing and pagination, go to the OWL at Purdue <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>. Number your responses appropriately.

Section I: Study Guide Questions

1. Discuss the history of the Danish kingdom. Why is Beowulf's arrival so important to the Danes? Why does Beowulf want to go to a foreign country and risk his life? What purpose does his arrival have to do with the overall meaning of the work? (Overall meaning has to do with the rhetorical purpose, the attitude held by the anonymous poet.)
2. What purpose has fate in the lives of the Danes? Research the term "wyrd" (pronounced "weird"). How does it compare and contrast with the idea of fate? How does the poet attempt to reconcile the Danes' thinking with Christian beliefs?
3. Why is Beowulf's appearance so important to the Danes?
4. Why does the poet tell Unferth's story? Which characteristics of Beowulf are developed through this tale?
5. Choose one of the following and explain what it symbolizes in Beowulf. Provide textual evidence for your explanation: weapons, shield, hoarded treasure, dragon, lair, Beowulf's funeral.

Section II: Central conflicts: Discuss how the battles are significant to the overall meaning of the work.

1. Battle at the mead hall. What is significant about the light/dark imagery involved? Why is Grendel described as a descendent of Cant? What rhetorical purpose does this serve? Why is the use of swords not successful? How does Beowulf win this battle? What is significant about how he wins the battle?
2. Battle in Grendel's mother's lair. Discuss the imagery of the lair itself and the meaning implied. What is significant about the creatures? What is the source of the strange light? What is significant about how Beowulf wins this battle?

3. Does Beowulf feel prepared for the final battle with the dragon? What is the poet's rhetorical strategy at this point?
4. What is significant about the behavior of Beowulf's men during the final battle?
5. What does the behavior of the men suggest about the future of the kingdom?
6. The ending signifies a very sad, elegiac tone. Why? How does the poet use this final scene to bridge the pagan world of a war torn society to Christianity?

Section III: Overall Meaning

1. In what ways is Beowulf a celebration of the barbarian culture?
2. In what ways does the epic demonstrate the end of the culture and beginning of a Christian heritage?

DUE: 8/12/2019

Mini-Research Paper:

Frankenstein Science vs. Morality, Man's Passion vs. Man's Humility
Connecting to Modern Scientific/Technological "Advancements"

- Find an example of modern science/technology that you think either oversteps moral boundaries or has yielded unwanted consequences. You can't choose abortion or the atom bomb. Aim for something that is relevant to a field of study that you plan on pursuing in the future, or something that is personally important/relevant to you.
- Do some research to familiarize yourself with the information that's out there, and the opinions people have about this topic. (USE ABCLIO AND OTHER DATABASES/CREDIBLE SOURCES, NOT GOOGLE)
- Keep in mind that this is a MINI research paper. You should have **2-3** sources max. It should be 3ish pages. You should not freak out about this assignment.

What I am looking for:

✓••••• In your paper, present the controversial scientific or technological issue and explain both sides of the argument (whether it was beneficial or whether the consequences were too bad to justify the gains in knowledge/industry). You mention the sources where you found your information with MLA parenthetical citation.

✓••••• When you present your topic to the class, you must use a visual and/or interactive component, preferably using technology (prezi, podcast, socrative, public service announcement format, etc) The class will have access to ipads during your presentations if needed. Don't just **talk** to the class – get them thinking, participating, engaged.

✓••••• You explain which side of the argument YOU agree with the most. (Try and take a side instead of sitting on the fence – using first person for this section is acceptable).

✓••••• You connect this back to *Frankenstein* in some way. Remember, themes count. How about science and morality? Humans overstepping their limits in nature? Doing what we CAN do without thinking about what we SHOULD do...etc. Connect it to a specific part in the text!!!

✓••••• Even though this is a mini project, it should still be professional, complete, and well-written. You should also include a Works Cited page to show me which sources you used (include *Frankenstein*).