

## English IV British Literature: Summer Reading Assignment 2024

**1. Reading:** We will begin our study of British Literature with one of the earliest known examples: *Beowulf*. Your Summer Reading Assignment will prepare you for our study of Old English texts in August. Everyone will read *Beowulf – Translated by Seamus Heaney*. In addition to this, you will also **SELECT ONE** additional work from the supplemental list of British literature. As you read your two books, you should annotate for themes of **heroism, sacrifice, and courage**. The required reading and annotations should be completed by the first day of class. You will have an in-class writing assignment over this material within the first week of school.

If you are new to the idea of annotating, annotations may include brief notes, questions, highlighted passages, sticky notes, or coded references that can be reviewed at a later time. Here is a link to a video from UT about annotations: <https://youtu.be/CNr-E8g35nl>

**2. Activity: Anatomy of a Hero.** Create a Character Analysis Chart for a heroic character in your chosen text (not *Beowulf*). On a Google Doc, address each of the categories described below for that character. Provide a quote (with page) from the text as evidence of at least one of the claims you have made about the character for each category. You will upload this assignment to Google Classroom by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Categories of Character Analysis:

- Physical Characteristics (voice, demeanor, dress, distinguishing marks, strengths, weaknesses, etc.) \*include a quote as evidence
- Background (Family life/history, personal interests, beliefs, values) \*include a quote as evidence
- Development or Changes in Character (how the character responds to events and actions of other characters) \*include a quote as evidence
- Tactics/Will (Conflict with self/nature/man/society? How does he or she approach conflict? Moral responsibility to others? Honest with self and others?) \*include a quote as evidence
- Judgment (How does this character view others in society? How do they view him? Does that make a difference to him?) \*include a quote as evidence
- Influences (good and bad) that impact the character's choices \*include a quote as evidence

Texts:

- ***Beowulf* Translated by Seamus Heaney** – Everyone reads this. It's important that you select this particular translation. **(You need a hard copy of this book for class.)** ISBN-10 : 978-0393320978  
ISBN-13 : 978-0393320978
- **Brit Lit Text Options (Pick One) \*Choose a book you have not read.**
  - Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
  - The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* by J.R.R. Tolkien
  - The Once and Future King* by T. H. White
  - Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe
  - Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur C. Clarke

*\*Note: By studying a diverse body of texts we will be introduced to literature that, at times, describes behavior and expresses ideas that conflict with the Christian view of the human situation and the values of WCS. Literature reflects Truth in two ways: 1) The Truth of the universe pervades our writing and appears as symbols, themes, thoughts and ideas expressed in literature. 2) Sometimes literature shows the need for God through the emptiness and actions a character accepts or the writing reveals. As a mature audience, we will be able to evaluate the material and literature through a Christian Theistic perspective when we study material in class.*