

## ENTERING 12<sup>th</sup> CP BRITISH LITERATURE: Summer Reading Assignment

The **required** book is ***Beowulf: A New Verse Translation* by Seamus Heaney**. Bring the annotated text and journal response to class Monday, August 6, 2018.

### ***Beowulf : A New Verse Translation***

#### Beowulf Book Annotation Assignment

Although you may purchase a book, full ownership of a book comes when you have made it a part of yourself, and the best way to make it meaningful for you is to interact with the book as you read it. We interact with a book when we use pencils or pens for annotation (adding notes or comments to a text, book, drawing) and that is a key component of close reading. You may feel that annotating the book slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That is the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter, then go back and annotate. The assignment for *Beowulf* is to make annotations in the book as you read the text (use the margin space as well). Next you will complete a journal entry for each section of the reading.

1. Read “How to Mark a Book” by Mortimer Adler ([http://chuma.cas.usf.edu/~pinsky/mark\\_a\\_book.htm](http://chuma.cas.usf.edu/~pinsky/mark_a_book.htm))
2. Purchase the book and, according to the suggestions from Adler, annotate it as you read. There are 200 pages; you should have at least one annotation on all right hand pages (modern English translations) to earn an A. (See grading below).

What should you note?

1. Underline names of characters. In the margin, make a note about the personality/traits of the character.
2. Mark the setting- when and where does scene take place?
3. At the top of each page, write important plot events. Not every page will be marked.
4. Underline quotes or lines you think are significant, powerful, or meaningful
5. Underline any symbols.
6. Put a question mark in areas of the text you do not understand.
7. Underline repetitions
8. Themes

Themes throughout *Beowulf* include, but are not limited to, ideas of courage, envy, revenge, loyalty, identity and reputation, morality, traditions and customs, wealth, religion, strength and skill, good vs. evil, and hospitality and generosity.

\*Mark at least 5 instances with “T” and name the theme you identify in the lines that you read.

#### Grading:

A- I would expect to see markings and written commentary throughout the entire book, at least one mark on each page, including recognition of significant plot points, themes, and ideas. There will probably be something significant noted in nearly every page.

B- The B grade may be lacking in written commentary, but the “highlighted” areas will reflect the significant elements as noted above (numbers 1-8). Markings will be notes on about half of the pages (50).

C- The book markings may be missing some significant elements, but will still be highlighted throughout some of the book, showing your basic understanding of the characters and plot.

Lower grades will reflect a lack of reading, possibly in skipped sections or random highlights of insignificant material.

### 3. Dialectical Journal assignment

#### Summer Reading Dialectical Journal Assignment

The term “Dialectic” means “using the process of question and answer to investigate the truth of a theory or opinion.” The “dialectic” was the method Socrates used to teach his students how to be actively engaged in the struggle to obtain meaning from an unfamiliar and challenging work. A dialectical journal is a written conversation with yourself about a piece of literature that encourages the habit of reflective questioning. You will use a double-entry format to examine details of a passage and synthesize your understanding of the text.

This assignment will be due on August 6, 2018.

In this process, there is to be NO collaboration with other students. Any assistance from the Internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, or Wikipedia will be viewed as cheating. If you have questions about format, email me at fparnell@princeave.org.

#### **Instructions:**

1. Purchase a spiral bound notebook or composition book **OR create** a computerized response journal (see example)
2. Divide your novel into ten (10) equal sections and write a response for every section. (E.g.: 253 pages ... 253/10= 25. This example shows you should write a response every 25 pages.)
3. Draw a vertical line down the middle of the page
4. Label the left column TEXT and the right column RESPONSE
5. In the TEXT column, copy passages word for word from the novel, including quotations marks and page numbers; you should have **TEN**.
6. How do you choose what passages to write down? Passages become important if
  - i. Details in the passage seem important to you
  - ii. You have an epiphany
  - iii. You learn something significant about a character
  - iv. You recognize a pattern (recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, descriptions, details, etc.)
  - v. You agree or disagree with something a character says or does
  - vi. You find an interesting or potentially significant quotation
  - vii. You notice something important or relevant about the author’s writing style
  - viii. You notice effective use of literary devices
  - ix. You think that the passage contributes to or reveals a theme in the novel
7. In the RESPONSE column, write about the passages. **DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**
8. Label each passage with one of the letters below (RE, CH, CO, P, LD, RF, T, M, I). You must use every label **AT LEAST ONCE**.
  - a. (Reaction) RE= Describe what the passage makes you think or how it makes you feel and why.
  - b. (Characterization) CH= Analyze details or dialogue uses to show you aspects of the identities of the characters.
  - c. (Connection) CO= Make connections to other places in the novel or to your life, or to the world, or another story that you have read.
  - d. (Prediction) P= Anticipate what will occur based on what is in the passage.
  - e. (Literary Device) LD= Analyze the author’s writing using literary terms (see list of possibilities below)
    - i. **You may only use this three times, and they must be three different literary devices**
    - ii. **Please discuss not only what the device is, but why it’s use is important to the text**
  - f. (Reflect) RF= Think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just about the way things are?
  - g. (Theme) T= Determine the passage contributes to the author’s overall message or messages about some aspect or aspects of life.
  - h. (Mood) M= Determine the way the passage establishes the mood or tone of a scene and explain how that might be important.
  - i. (Inquiry) I= Ask questions about what is happening, what a detail might mean, or things you are curious about.
9. Each RESPONSE **must be at least 50 words** (include word count at the end of each response. First person writing (using the pronoun “I”) is acceptable in the RESPONSE column

**IMPORTANT: It is important to always explain why you think something or like something or don’t understand something.**

Sample Journal Entry

TEXT	RESPONSE
<p>“He was four times a fighter, this father prince: one by one they entered the world Heorgar, Hrothgar, the good Halga and a daughter, I have heard, who was Onela’s queen, A balm to the battle-scarred Swede.” (<i>Beowulf</i> 59-63)</p> <p><b>NOTE the quotation marks, punctuation, and MLA format</b></p>	<p>(LD- alliteration) In this excerpt, there are several examples of alliteration. The letter “f” is repeated 3 times in line one, and the letter “h” is repeated 3 times in line 3. In line 6, the letter “b” is used twice. Alliteration is found throughout <i>Beowulf</i>, as the sounds were a tool used to help oral storytellers remember facts of the story. (61 words)</p> <p><b>NOTE word count; NOTE labeling of response type</b></p>

**Literary Devices you can use for responses**

Alliteration	Epic	Onomatopoeia	Subplot	Tone
Allusion	Epic hero	Oxymoron	Suspense	Theme
Antagonist	Fable	Paradox	Symbol	
Autobiography	Foreshadowing	Personification		
Biography	Genre: poetry, prose, drama	Plot: exposition, climax, resolution		
Blank verse	hyperbole	Point of view (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , limited, omniscient)		
Characterization	Imagery	Protagonist		
-static, flat, etc	Irony	Repetition		
-direct, indirect	-dramatic, verbal, situational	Rhyme		
Conflict	Metaphor	Satire		
Dialect	Meter	Setting		
Diction	Mood	Simile		