

EN 101/102 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Students: Each student should read two books:

A. ***An Experiment in Criticism*** by C.S. Lewis. Assignment: Mark the text as you read (see directions below). Bring the text to class Monday, August 12, 2019. An essay on the book will be assigned.

AND

B. ***Beowulf: A New Verse Translation*** by Seamus Heaney. Assignment: Analysis Essay; bring the journal to class Monday, August 12, 2019.

C. Each student may also want to get ahead for the 102 course by seeing the attached assignment. This is optional, but strongly recommended, as it will save you time during the semester in which you take 102.

A. Book #1 assignment: Book Annotation for *An Experiment in Criticism*

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 is to make annotations in *An Experiment in Criticism* as you read the text (use the margin space as well). **THE EPILOGUE COUNTS AS PART OF THE BOOK!**

How do you make annotations? The techniques are almost limitless. You can use underlines, boxes, triangles, clouds, brackets, exclamation or question marks.

What should you note? Underline quotes or lines you think are significant, powerful, or meaningful. Note sentences where you agree/disagree with the author. Put a question mark in areas of the text you do not understand.

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 points, themes, ideas, or arguments. 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. Markings will be notes on about half of the pages.

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 Lewis’s points.

D- The book markings are sporadic, but still contains markings that demonstrate a basic understanding of Lewis’s points.

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

Turn the Page →

B. Book #2 assignment: Essay for *Beowulf*

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 esadler@princeave.org.

Topic: Write a 2-3 page paper in MLA 8th edition format (2 pgs. means it goes to the last line of the second page) in which you analyze the three cycles of Beowulf's heroism—the fight with Grendel, Grendel's Mother, and the Dragon. Explain the significance of the heroic cycle, as well as what Beowulf gains from each encounter. Your thesis statement *must* show the relationship between the cycles (i.e. Thesis should tie the three parts together in some way—preferably thematically—as opposed to treat them as three separate encounters).

See the following resources for help:

- A. The Introduction to your *Beowulf* text by Seamus Heaney
- B. <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/beowulf/>
- C. http://changingminds.org/disciplines/storytelling/plots/hero_journey/hero_journey.htm

An Essay which scores an **A** will...Be exceptionally well-written, showing superior and creative insight into the topic; have a thesis that completely addresses the question and shows the thematic relationship between the three parts of *Beowulf*; provide creative and varied examples that are then thoroughly explained (and cite all examples using proper MLA 8th edition format); have a logical organization with smooth transitions; have varied and complex sentence structure; contain five or fewer grammatical/technical/formatting errors.

An Essay which scores a **B** will...Be well-written, showing clear understanding of the topic; have a thesis that completely addresses the question; provide several clear and appropriate examples that are then thoroughly explained (and cite all examples using proper MLA 8th edition format); have a clear organization with solid transitions; have varied sentence structure; contain fewer than ten grammatical/technical/formatting errors.

An Essay which scores a **C** will...Be adequately written, showing understanding, but perhaps lacking insight into the topic; have a clear thesis statement, but does not adequately show the relationship between the three sections of *Beowulf*; provide some examples, but they perhaps lack clarity or insight (cite all examples); be organized, but perhaps be more basic or seem more disjointed; have more basic sentences; contain fewer than fifteen grammatical/technical/formatting errors.

An Essay which scores a **D** will...Be mostly adequately written, but lacks some understanding into the topic; have a clear thesis statement, but is inadequate; provide examples, but not explain them; contain fewer than eighteen grammatical/technical/formatting errors.

A failing essay will be one that is too short or too long; does not have any cited examples; has fewer than five paragraphs; contains more than eighteen grammatical/technical/formatting errors.

Turn the Page →

C: Book #3 Optional Assignment

Whether you take it 1st or 2nd semester, your final in the 102 course will be a literary research paper on a book of your choosing. You may wish to get ahead on this course by reading one of the following books. **You *must* pick a book you have never read before for this assignment.** You may also pick a book not on this list, as long as you e-mail and ask me for permission at esadler@princeave.org.

Quests and Adventure

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott

Idylls of the King by Lord Alfred Tennyson

Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, or The Return of the King by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas

Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes

Comedy and Romance

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare (drama; comedy)

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (any Austen novel, actually)

Tales of Betrayal, Jealousy, and War

Othello by William Shakespeare (drama; tragedy)

Macbeth by William Shakespeare (drama; tragedy)

Henry V by William Shakespeare (drama; history)

The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare (drama; tragic-comedy)

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Murder in the Cathedral by T.H. White

War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy

Les Misérables by Victor Hugo

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

The Monster Within/Gothic Romance and Gothic Horror

Dr. Faustus by Christopher Marlowe (drama; tragedy)

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Dracula by Bram Stoker

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The Trial by Franz Kafka

Turn the Page →

Children's Literature

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

Christian Literature and Allegory (Fiction)

Le Morte D'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory

The Inferno by Dante

The Faerie Queene by Edmund Spenser

Paradise Lost by John Milton

Pilgrim's Progress, Parts I and II by John Bunyan

Christian Literature (Non-Fiction/Theology)

Revelations of Divine Love by Julian of Norwich

The Book of Margery Kemp by Margery Kemp

On the Incarnation by St. Athanasius

*Heretics **AND** Orthodoxy* by G.K. Chesterton (both are fairly short and are meant to be read together)

The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis