

AP Senior English Summer Reading Assignments

Please note that all works required will be used in next year's curriculum. We will be studying the development of the heroic tradition in English literature. Discussions, compositions, and tests will involve these assignments.

First Assignment - Due in WCS office by Thursday, June 15

Read *Beowulf* translated by Seamus Heaney (ISBN-13: 978-0393320978). His translation is both beautiful and powerful. It also helps that this translation is the easiest for students to understand.

Compile a synopsis of the story in this manner: for every stanza write a one sentence summary. In Heaney's translation (on the right-hand pages) the stanzas are separated by spaces. For example, the first stanza is three lines and the second stanza is eight lines. *Write as you read*. I recommend the use an inexpensive college-ruled single subject notebook. The work should be *handwritten*.

Second Assignment - Due in WCS office by Thursday July 13

Read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* translated by Simon Armitage (ISBN-13: 978-0393334159). This 2008 translation captures the poetic essence of the Middle English original in very readable modern language.

Compile a synopsis in the same manner as you did *Beowulf*. The stanzas in this poem consist of a *strophe* (the longer, unrhymed part), a *bob* (one short line that completes the narrative of the strophe), and a *wheel* (four line rhymed part). So, for each of these, write a short (sentence or two) summary.

Third Assignment - Due in office by Thursday August 10

Read *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN-13: 978-0062301673). While it is available as a free pdf download (<http://ziveuniverzity.sk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Foster-How-to-Read-Literature-Like-a-Professor.pdf>), having a paper copy for making your own notes will be helpful in the long run. This book will be used frequently during the semester.

After each chapter, handwrite a summary of the main points, mentioning the works or authors to whom Foster refers. This will be an invaluable aid as we reference and apply the ideas in the book to our literary analysis during the course. You should keep this neatly bound or in a separate notebook

If you have any questions during the summer, email me at housecarl@bellsouth.net.