

Brit Lit HH / Brit Lit AP Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to the study of British Literature. Please have the following text read and the assignment completed for the first day of school, Sept. 2, 2008.

Text: *Beowulf* ~ New translation by Seamus Heaney

Assignment:

1. Read and annotate the introduction.
2. Read and annotate the poem *Beowulf*.
3. Find 10 passages in the poem that provide insight into life during the Anglo-Saxon era. Look for passages that reveal Anglo-Saxon values, the role of men and women in society, and aspects of everyday life. After examining these passages, be sure to write a summary explaining what these passages reveal about Anglo-Saxon life.
4. Identify the major characters of the poem, noting 5 instances of direct characterization and indirect characterization. Then write a character summary of each major character.
5. Examine the poem for concepts of good and evil. Find 7 passages that show these concepts.

See you next year!