

Summer Reading Assignment (2018-2019)

BRITISH LITERATURE—MRS. FORTUGNO

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Read and annotate the two following works:

- *Beowulf*, Author Anonymous; translated by **Burton Raffel**
 - Purchase the “Signet Classics” copy—ISBN: 978-0451530967
- *Grendel*, John Gardner
 - *See Excerpt online or in office
- *see worksheet and instructions on annotation

Supplementary Requirements:

- Define the following literary terms:
 - **Epic**
 - **Epic Hero**
 - **Tragic Flaw**
 - **Point of View including:**
 - First Person
 - Second Person
 - Third Person
 - Limited
 - Omniscient
- Annotate both literary documents with at least 5 annotations (post-its or loose paper) for John Gardner’s *Grendel* and at least 10 annotations for *Beowulf*

Essay:

- **Essay Requirements**
 - 3-5 pages in length
 - MLA format (Works Cited Page Required)
 - At least 1 direct quote per paragraph in your paper from either primary document
 - No required secondary sources—if secondary sources are used, the sources **must be** reliable
 - *Please use Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary for all definitions*
 - Assignment **must be** submitted via Turnitin.com
 - Login information will be provided on the first day of school
 - **HARD COPY REQUIRED**
- **Directions:** You will write a point of view essay in which you analyze the point of view of the two assigned literary pieces. You will analyze the differing points of view in each version of *Grendel*’s tale, and then you will reflect on how the point of view reflects the interpretation of the events. Consider both the nature of an epic poem and the effectiveness of the differing points of view.

Tips on Writing a Point of View Essay

- *Analyzing Point of View*
 - You should read the narrative pieces and take notes on the writer's use of point of view in each piece. A writer uses a particular point of view to tell different perspectives of a story. As a result, it is important to pay close attention to the effect that the narrative's point of view has on various aspects of the story and on the story as a whole.
- *Writing a Thesis Statement and an Introduction*
 - Your introduction should provide a hook, brief background on your paper, transition into your topic and main points that will be argued/discussed in your paper, and finally your thesis statement.
 - The analysis of the narrative's point of view should be written in one succinct thesis statement which is customarily found at the end of your essay's introduction paragraph. The thesis statement should relay the main argument about the author's use of point of view and the effect it has on certain aspects of the narrative. Since you will be reading two pieces, you will also be comparing the use of point of view in both and determine how it changes the story because of the differing perspectives. An example thesis statement might touch on how a first-person perspective is too limiting, and as a result you might conclude that this style of narration causes a level of untrustworthiness, tension, or anxiety in the reader.
- *Writing your Body Paragraphs*
 - Once you have analyzed the narrative's point of view and developed your thesis, the rest of your essay should expand from there. Your body paragraphs should support your thesis statement by providing evidence from the novel to illustrate how (using the previous example of a thesis statement) the first-person perspective demonstrates unreliability and subjectivity. You might proceed to analyze the perspectives of both pieces, and then compare or contrast the overall effect of each perspective on the story.
- *Writing your Conclusion*
 - Your conclusion should restate a reworded version of your thesis statement. Your conclusion should also consist of a summary of the main points previously argued in your paper. Finally you might conclude with a statement about which perspective is more reliable or useful—some analytical piece that you leave with the reader.