



12TH GRADE SUMMER READING

THE PURPOSE OF SUMMER READING:

The goal of Central Florida Christian Academy is to “educate, inspire, and equip” all of our students with the knowledge base necessary to continue on their educational journey and in life. Reading good literature is a vital part of that journey. Being able to read comprehensively and on grade level will aid the success rate of a student at CFCA. In addition, being able to understand and evaluate an author’s written word helps students to use critical thinking in other areas of their lives.

THE BOOKS: PLEASE BE SURE TO GET **THE LISTED COPY** OF THE BOOK AS WE WILL BE USING THEM IN CLASS.

Beowulf translation by Seamus Heaney (ISBN: 9780393320978)

General Info:

- British Literature is not a “meaningless” activity – you will be responsible for having completed these activities; these questions are a foundation upon which we will build.
- Please read “A Note on Names” and refer to the Family Trees in the back of the book BEFORE YOU READ THE EPIC; the tree explains the connections between characters.
- You only need to read the actual text of the play; do not worry about reading the Introduction or other notes.
- **WARNING:** Do not ignore or wait until the last minute to do this work. Most British Literature students who seek to find a fast route through this material or think watching a movie is the same as reading a book will do poorly in 1st quarter. Those who read the text and respond will do well.
- **Please note:** We will be studying *Beowulf* during the 1st quarter. The course begins with the understanding that you have read it (not SparkNotes) and that you have worked with the requirements. Make sure you complete all work on your own.
- Please secure the proper copy of the book. You will be writing in it and working with it for weeks so that is important. The story is the ancient story of Beowulf, a Scandinavian hero who defeats the seemingly invincible monster Grendel. Originally written by an anonymous



poet in Old English, it is the first known written work in English. Since our studies will begin with this early period of British Literature, it is the perfect starting place for the course.

→ Three Main Battles in Three Main Sections:

- Beowulf and Grendel (lines 1 – 1250)
- Beowulf and Grendel's Mother (lines 1251 – 2199)
- Beowulf and the Dragon (lines 2200 – 3182)

→ Important Characters:

- Beowulf, a Geat
- Hygelac, King of the Geats
- Hygd, Hygelac's Queen
- Hrothgar, King of the Danes
- Wealhtheow, his Queen
- Wiglaf, a kinsman of Beowulf
- Grendel
- Grendel's Mother
- a dragon

THE REQUIREMENTS:

1. ANNOTATIONS:

You will need to thoroughly **ANNOTATE** your book/books. Please follow the instructions listed below for annotation.

→ Make a **character list** in the front cover or create a character bookmark. Next to each name, **mark the LINE numbers** of significant passages and specific adjectives that describe the character. You should also include short descriptions for easy reference.

→ **Underline any words you don't know** (please do at least 20 WORDS). Write a short definition above or next to the word **ON YOUR BOOK**.

→ Highlight any **significant quotes** (please have at least 15 quotes). Why are they important? Make a note in the margin.

→ Write **questions** in the margins (please do at least 10 questions).



- **Make connections.** Does a certain passage or quote remind you of something else (like another book, movie, song, historical event, etc.)? Can you apply it to your own life? Write connections in the margins (please do at least 10 connections).
- Highlight any examples of **figurative language** (similes, metaphors, personification, allusions, etc.). Label each example with the appropriate term.
- **KENNINGS:** Kennings are metaphors made up of compound words. They are formed by making compound words. For example, “sky-candle” is the sun, “battle-dew” is blood, and “whale-road” is the sea. **You should look for ALL examples of kennings that you can find and write in the margin what you think they represent (have at least 10 noted please).**

2. SUMMARIES

- Create a chart like the one below (**typed please**) to keep track of information for each section.

SECTION ONE	pgs. 1-23/lines 1-319
Setting	(A description of where the action occurred.) This should include any given information about time period, general location (country/city), specific location, and any other important information to setting. <i>Heorot, Hrothgar’s mead-hall</i>
Characters	(List and describe important information about the characters in this section. Use your annotations for help!) <i>Shield Sheafson – founds Danish ruling line</i> <i>Hrothgar – Shield’s great grandson who built Heorot</i>
Summary of Lines	(A 3-5 sentence summary of the section.)
Themes	(List the main themes or idea – message/lessons about life)

- Below are the 10 sections of the epic. Be sure to complete a chart for EACH of the 10 sections:
 - Section One, Pages 1 – 23, Lines 1-319
 - Section Two, Pages 23 – 41, Lines 320 – 606
 - Section Three, Pages 41 – 57, Lines 607 – 835



- Section Four, Pages 57 – 89, Lines 836 – 1250
- Section Five, Pages 89 – 117, Lines 1251 – 1686
- Section Six, Pages 117 – 131, Lines 1687 – 1903
- Section Seven, Pages 131 – 149, Lines 1904 – 2199
- Section Eight, Pages 149 – 163, Lines 2200 – 2396
- Section Nine, Pages 163 – 185, Lines 2397 – 2751
- Section Ten, Pages 185 – 213, Lines 2752 – 3182

3. Grading:

- During the first week of class, I will collect your typed charts and your book to look over your annotations. You will receive a quiz grade for EACH of the two.
- These assignments are due on the first day of class after the Senior Trip. Please have them ready!

Have a great summer and happy reading! This is your LAST summer reading project. Do it well.