

OAKBROOK SUMMER READING 2018
Rising Juniors (11th) in English III Honors: British Literature

IMPORTANT: Please make sure you read the correct translation of *Beowulf*.

Beowulf, translated by Burton Raffel
Signet Classics Series
ISBN 978-1-1012-1299-8

This translation is available from Barnes & Noble. You may have to order the text.

***Beowulf* by Anonymous; translated by Burton Raffel**

English literature begins with *Beowulf*. Composed sometime during the eighth century but set during the third or fourth century, it is England's national epic.

Epic heroes embody the character traits most admired by their societies. If Beowulf is the perfect Anglo-Saxon, what qualities are admired by Anglo-Saxon society? How does Beowulf exemplify those qualities? Are Beowulf's heroic traits still admired today or are they out of fashion and irrelevant? Is there a modern hero (from film, comics, novels, etc.) who shares Beowulf's brand of heroism?

Respond to the prompt in a well-written essay in MLA format due on the first day of class. Do not consult secondary (outside) sources. Bring your essay and a copy of the book to class on the first day of school. See the attached guidelines.

MS. AUTENZIO'S 10 GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea/theme(s) discussed in your paper.** Remember, your thesis must be **specific!** Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.
(Change is assumed in the topic—be specific!)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, Beauty's love redeems the Beast, changing him into a handsome prince; more importantly, the power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

- 2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.**

Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.
(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.
(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

- 3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them "float" in your essay.**

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem "Thanatopsis." "The last bitter hour." This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In the poem "Thanatopsis," William Cullen Bryant explores the "last bitter hour" (9) of death which comes to all people.

- 4. When using direct quotations, cite the author and page number in parentheses after the quotation.**

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, Janie's life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like "a rut in the road" (Hurston 72); Janie has no hope for the future.

- 5. Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.**
- 6. Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**
- 7. Do not use contractions.**
- 8. Do not use first or second person (I, we, you, us etc.).**
- 9. Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) format that you learned in middle school. Consult the 8th edition of the MLA handbook or this helpful link to information on MLA formatting and style:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>**
- 10. Include an MLA Works Cited page.**