

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

1. Join the English 4 Honors Summer 2017 class via Google Classroom.
2. Read the Burton Raffel translation of *Beowulf*.
3. Read "Beowulf: Anonymous 1000" from *Epics for Students*.
4. Compose six original journal entries focusing on specific portions of the epic poem *as you read*.
5. Compose a three-hundred word (give or take twenty words) commentary on a theme or element of style you read about in the *Epics for Students* article.

GETTING STARTED

Joining Google Classroom:

Go to classroom.google.com

Username: first initial + last name + graduation year @students.rbrhs.org

Example: John DeBarberie's username is jdebarberie19@students.rbrhs.org

Password: Student ID + * + Graduation Year

Example: 19999*19

After you login:

1. Click the Plus Sign
2. Enter Class Code: u81i9x
3. You will now be a member of English 4 Honors Summer 2017.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

1. **QUESTIONS:** Post questions and find answers to questions throughout the summer. I will check in frequently to address any points of confusion or other questions about the text or the summer reading assignment. You may also email me at jdebarberie@rbrhs.org and I will post my response on Classroom for the entire group to see.
2. **CONTENT:** Did you lose your summer assignment? Good news. It's available on Google Classroom. Can't find the *Epics for Students* article? Great news. It's on Google Classroom. Bored? Find entertainment on Google Classroom. You may also find Screencasts with valuable "How To" information.
3. **ORGANIZATION:** Though not mandatory, you may use your school Google Drive to organize your journal entries and secondary source summary (more information below). You may choose to create separate Docs or organize them in one Doc. Either way, you will find the work easily accessible at home, at play, or in school. You may also submit your work to me if you would like feedback.

ASSIGNMENT #1 - JOURNAL ENTRIES

DUE DATE: First Day of English Class

Before you begin reading *Beowulf*, break up the epic poem into six portions. The poem has forty-four chapters including the preface. Each of your six portions may be composed of the number of chapters you choose.

The content of your entries is up to you. The most meaningful journal entries relate to the reader's experience with the text. If you like a certain part, great. Refer to specific passages and line numbers as you explain what you like about the poem. If something interests or confuses you, write about it. If you hate the poem - I don't think you will, but if you do - write about the reasons you dislike it. Does the narrative structure confuse you? Do the protagonist's actions seem unrealistic? Is the story relatable? It. Is. Up. To. You.

Requirements:

- At least six entries
- At least one well-developed paragraph each
- Typed, double-spaced
- Size 12 Times New Roman
- Heading for each entry including line numbers, date, and a topic of your writing.
- Refer to specific passages and line numbers as you write.

JOURNAL SENTENCE STARTERS

Sometimes the best way to begin writing is by using the words of others. Physically copy one of these prompts and finish the sentence if you are experiencing writer's block. You can thank Ms. Dorn for these jazzy examples.

1. I like the way the author...because....
2. I wonder if....
3. My favorite part has been....because....
4. I felt _____ when....
5. I was confused when _____ because....
6. If I _____ I think I would have....
7. I never would _____ because....
8. Why did....? My guess is that....
9. I really liked/disliked....because....
10. I agree with the idea of....because....
11. I disagree with the idea of....because....
12. I feel sorry for/ angry at/ disgusted with, etc. _____ because....
13. I would like to meet _____ because....

ASSIGNMENT #2 - COMMENTARY

DUE DATE: First Day of English Class

The article from *Epics for Students* is quite lengthy and contains valuable information that will help you understand the poem, e.g. character analysis, plot summary, historical context, but you are only responsible for reading the sections titled **Themes** and **Style**.

Though you may read these portions of the article before, while, or after you read *Beowulf*, I strongly suggest you write your commentary after you have completed your journal entries and finished reading the epic poem. What does it mean to write a commentary? Good question.

Keep the following in mind as you begin writing your commentary:

1. This is not a formal essay, but you should adhere to conventional grammar rules.
2. You must make a connection between the text and one theme or element of style described in the article.
3. Keep your analysis concise.
4. Refer to specific lines from the poem.
5. Write about something that interests you.

Requirements:

- 280-320 words
- Typed, double-spaced
- Font: Size 12 Times New Roman

English 4 Honors
Summer Assignment 2017
Mr. DeBarberie

A Note About Technology

If you use Google Drive/Google Docs, you may access your work nearly anywhere using Google Apps.

If you do not have access to a computer or if your WiFi is down or if you spend your summer vacation in Antarctica to escape the heat, email me and we can work out a solution. Wait, email won't work in these scenarios. Try this: Visit the school Monday-Thursday, visit your local library, go to a public place with free WiFi, or handwrite your assignments and type them up when school starts. If you have a specific concern, please visit me at RBR. I'm here throughout July and for three weeks in August on certain days.