

3A Reading Assignment
Denman

Please understand that by electing to take an honors level course I expect honors level work. I will be looking for students that demonstrate critical thinking, initiative and take academic risks.

Reading Assignment:
Beowulf (Seamus Heaney translation)
Grendel (John Gardner)

Writing Assignment:

1. Because John Gardner's *Grendel* is told from the monster's point of view, it is able to penetrate deeply into the mysteries of order and chaos, good and evil, hero and monster. How do these truths compare with the world as seen through the world of *Beowulf*?
2. *Grendel* is a presentation of the dark, the misunderstood and the ugly, speaking for itself and urging empathy and maybe even acceptance. How does this compare with the treatment of both hero and monster in *Beowulf*?

Please have the essay ready for the first day of school. Essay should be typed, twelve point font, Times New Roman. Hard copies only; DO NOT EMAIL!

Rubric:

I will be looking for the following:

1. original and clear thesis statement
2. inclusion of quotes within body paragraphs
3. analysis of quotes and text that help to further and prove your argument
4. clear transitions and organization

Please do not wait until the last minute to read both books and complete the essay. This will serve as your first grade for the marking period and your first impression.

If you have any questions or run into problems you may email me over the summer at: denmanc@kinnelon.org.

Have a safe and academic summer!