

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition Summer Assignment

I am so excited to welcome you to A.P. Literature! I am already looking forward to the provocative debates we'll have about the wide range of texts we'll read together next year. This class is intended to hone your skills in reading, writing, thinking, and speaking at a college level while still in high school. Your acceptance of this summer assignment indicates your agreement to meet the demands of the class and to take the A.P. Exam next May. *If you have any concerns about these expectations, we should have a conversation immediately.* Your **summer assignment has two parts**: analysis of 10 poems (see your **poetry packet**), and a **reading journal** for responses to two graphic novels (see below).

Part of being a skilled reader of literature is picking up on the allusions authors make (typically) to other classic texts of the Western Canon. The more familiar you are with some of these canonical texts, the more allusions you will catch, deepening your reading experience. Two of the major texts in this tradition are *The Odyssey* by Homer and *Beowulf*. Lucky for you, I am asking you to read the graphic novel versions of these texts by artist Gareth Hinds. You should purchase a notebook to use as a reading journal, and note the information below for BOTH books. In your reading journal, make one section for *Beowulf* and another section for *The Odyssey*. For each book:

- Create a **character list** with a brief description of each character.
- Write a **brief summary** of each book/chapter (if you look, there are three long 'books' in *Beowulf*, and 24 'books'/chapters in *The Odyssey*).
- For each chapter, describe a **memorable quote or image**: write down the words, or describe the image. Then write a **reflection** about it: Why is it important for the plot? What does it show about one of the characters? Why do you find it interesting? To be clear: you will need to do this for the three books/chapters of *Beowulf* and the 24 books/chapters of *The Odyssey*.

As you read, consider these questions as well: Why do you think this is such a significant story in Western literary tradition? Are the figures (Beowulf himself, or Odysseus) heroic? Is their form of justice/revenge necessary or justified? ~These are the kinds of questions we will discuss when we return in September. Also be prepared for posting 1-2 times this **summer for an online discussion on turnitin.com**. If you haven't already, sign up for an account, or add my class to the account you already have. **Class ID 18045981; password: Matthusen**. These postings will be counted as a HW grade in September. **Check your email this summer for more details.**

While it is preferable that you complete your summer assignment before the first day of class since our focus will focus will begin with it, I will accept them till the middle of September. You will also be accountable for the reading with a **100 point exam, class discussion, and other assignments**.

If you have any questions about the summer assignment as you go, don't hesitate to contact me via email: amatthusen@ewsis.org. Enjoy your reading and the summer – I look forward to discussing the books with you when we return. Congratulations on being accepted to a college-level class!

Ms. Matthusen