Any serious study of British literature requires a strong foundation of certain background materials which will make the study more enjoyable and more rewarding as to the subject’s understanding and appreciation.

The selections below are brief; however, it is important that you remain consistent with your reading. Please read the selections in the order they are listed.

Assignment: Keep a journal of your comments, questions, reactions, and insights into each selection. These entries may be brief. This journal should be typed – size 12, Times New Roman or Ariel font. This journal will be due the first day of class.

Journal entries are for the reading excerpts only, not Beowulf.

Support: I am available for questions through my email, davey.mills@bcsemail.org. I will respond to your email within three days. If you do not have email, you can call the school, and they will forward your message to me.

Resources: All of the assigned books are available online (maybe not Mythology) and at local bookstores, like Mr. K’s Used Books and Barnes & Noble. Also, the local libraries carry these priceless works of literature. Please see me prior to summer if you need help securing a copy of any of the books.

Online resource: The Bible (King James Version) – www.kingjamesbibleonline.org

Part I: Background Reading Excerpts

The King James Bible

Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-3:24, The Creation and Fall
4:1-15, The First Murder
6:5-9:17, The Flood
11:1-9, The Origin of Language
Job, Chapters 1-14, 29-31, 38-42
Psalms 8, 19, 23, 37, 104
Jonah
Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Matthew 5:1-7:29, The Sermon on the Mount
Luke 15:1-32, Parables of Jesus
Matthew 26:14-75, The Betrayal of Jesus
27:1-66, The Trials and Crucifixion of Jesus
28: 1-20, The Resurrection

Hamilton, Edith. Mythology
Chapters 1, 3, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23
Part II: Epic Assignment

Please read the following epic:

Beowulf – translated by Seamus Heaney

This entire text can be found online. Simply google (use google only) and type “Beowulf Seamus Heaney pdf” and you will see several options. The first site is the best.

Please complete the following questions for Beowulf. You may download the documents and complete them online and email the completed forms, or you may answer the questions on separate paper and turn them in on the first day of class.

Relax and enjoy the reading. Have a fun summer. I am looking forward to working with you this fall.

Mr. Mills

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English IV – Summer Reading Assignment (for Beowulf only)

**Pre-Reading:**

1. Original Publication date - Based on history, how could this date possibly influence the theme of the novel?

2. Genre (characteristics):

**During Reading:**

5. Major theme:

6. Minor themes and motifs:

7. Significant character(s): (flat, round, static, dynamic, complex, protagonist, antagonist, etc.):

8. Minor (but significant) character(s) and their function(s):

9. Main setting(s) and significance:

10. Point of View:

11. *Brief* Synopsis/Conflicts:

12. Significant Symbolism (relevance?):

13. Comment on the following literary devices and provide a textual example:

   Diction:

   Syntax:

   Figurative Language:
Irony: (verbal, situational, dramatic, paradox, understatement, hyperbole):

   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

15. Create/answer 3 *analytical* questions to spark discussion:
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

16. Response/Commentary (connection to other literary examples):