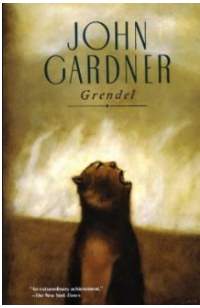


English 12 Summer Assignment 22-23

Welcome to Senior English! Summer assignments will be **due printed on the first day** of school. In addition, please plan on assessments and assignments the first few weeks of school that require your close reading and analysis of the novel.



NOVEL: *Grendel* by John Gardner (ISBN: 9780679723110)

Over the course of this year, we will explore the foundational texts of British Literature, beginning with the earliest piece of written English language. *Grendel* is the first and most terrifying monster recorded, and the novel follows the monster Grendel as he learns about humans and fights the war at the center of the great Anglo-Saxon epic, *Beowulf*. In this classic retelling of the great early epic, Grendel tells his own perspective of the story. As you read the novel, text-mark for Grendel's development as a character and for the motifs mentioned below. While text-marking is optional, it will greatly help you with both dialectical journal assignments.

ASSIGNMENT PART 1: Character Development Dialectical Journal

Create a typed dialectical journal of 12 entries taking note of how Grendel's character develops over the course of the novel. You should have one entry per chapter. You may choose to consider the following questions: How does he change? Is he good? Evil? What influences shape his view of the world and his actions?

Character Development Dialectical Journal Exemplar		
Chapter	Quote that Exemplifies Grendel's Character	Analysis of Grendel's Character & Development *2-3 sentences
ch.1	"The doe in the clearing goes stiff at sight of my horridness, then remembers her legs and is gone. It makes me cross. 'Blind prejudice!' I bawl at the splintered sunlight where half a second ago she stood. I wring my fingers and put on a long face. 'Ah, the unfairness of everything,' I say and shake my head. It is a matter of fact that I have never killed a deer in all my life, and never will" (Gardner 7-8).	Although Grendel's shown his propensity for killing men, children, and cows earlier in the chapter, his encounter with the deer reveals a different side to him. It seems his rage may be due to the fact that he is judged for his "horridness" and considers it "blind prejudice." Perhaps he has a desire to be something other than people make him out to be.

*note: exemplars should not be included as one of your 12 entries!

ASSIGNMENT PART 2: Theme Development Dialectical Journal

Create an additional typed dialectical journal of 12 entries explaining how Gardner develops each of the following motifs:

- fate & free will
- good & evil
- perspective & perception
- loneliness & isolation
- heroism
- power of language

You should have two quotes for each motif; quotes should be dispersed throughout the beginning, middle, & end of the novel, but don't necessarily need to be from each chapter.

Theme Development Dialectical Journal Exemplar		
Motif	Quote that Exemplifies Motif	Analysis & Connection of Motifs *2-3 sentences
power of language	"Nothing was changed, everything was changed, by my having seen the dragon. It's one thing to listen, full of scorn and doubt, to poets' versions of time past and visions of time to come; it's another to know, as coldly and simply as my mother knows her pile of bones, what is. Whatever I may have understood or misunderstood in the dragon's talk, something much deeper stayed with me, became my aura" (Gardner 75).	The only character in the novel that is fully able to understand and communicate with Grendel is the dragon, alleviating some of Grendel's loneliness . Because there is no language barrier between the two, the dragon serves as a major influence on Grendel's perspective of both the world around him and his identity.

*note: exemplars should not be included as one of your 12 entries!

continue to next page for further instructions →

COLLECTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Both dialectical journals (24 entries in total) should be done digitally, not handwritten, and typed in a Word document. Assignments are due printed on the first day of school; deductions of 10% will be taken for each day late. Additionally, be sure to keep your digital copy as it will be submitted to Canvas and checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.

NOTE ABOUT PLAGIARISM

All work submitted should be your own intellectual ideas. This is an independent assignment and is NOT something you are permitted to collaborate on with friends. Any student who submits any type of work or a key interpretive idea that is not his/her own is guilty of plagiarism and will receive a zero for the work. Be honest in your work and have the confidence to value your own unique thoughts and opinions.

ASSESSMENT OF READING

In addition to the summer assignments collected, you will be assessed on your comprehension of the novel. These assessments will occur within the first few weeks of school and include a timed essay and test, as well as various other activities and assignments to be completed in class.

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact me at sjardim@ccslancers.com if you have any questions regarding the reading or assignments.

NOTE FROM MRS.J

This is your final year of high school, and I could not be more honored to share it with you :) I know the senioritis is real, but let's work together to finish strong and commit to diligence, while still enjoying all the celebrations this year will bring. Each year I choose a verse to pray over our class, and this year the verses for our class come from 1 John 2. I pray that you would be emboldened to fervently seek after Christ and live a life for His glory, that you would "not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you" (verse 15). Instead, I pray that we can live each day doing our best to "obey God's word [as that] truly show[s] how completely [we] love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him" (verse 5). As you navigate this final school year and begin to make decisions regarding your future, I pray the Lord will give you His discernment and guide you closer to Him and the path He has set out for you. Please know that you are deeply loved and prayed for, and I look forward to a great year together <3



happy reading!