

11/12 College Prep English  
Summer 2023 Reading Assignment

*Beowulf*

Please read *Beowulf* before August 17 to prepare for an in-class essay during the first three weeks of school. I highly recommend that you use the *No Fear: Beowulf* version of the text as it has the Old English on one page and more modern language on the opposite page. The Amazon link for the book is <https://www.amazon.com/Beowulf-No-Fear-SparkNotes/dp/1454925213> . If you want to read the book online it is available at the following link <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/16328/16328-h/16328-h.htm> (this is in Old English). You do not have any written assignments due before school begins. However, in order to help you prepare for the upcoming essay, be sure to make notes as you read; you may want to highlight/note important passages if you are using your own copy of the book. If you find it helpful, you might keep a reading journal of your own by choosing some of the questions below and writing brief responses.

- Explain the meaning of the title of the work.
- Pick out an important word, paragraph, or page and explain how it applies to the work as a whole.
- What was the most important thing you learned from this book?
- What is the main conflict in the story? How was it resolved?
- Did your feelings about any of the characters change as you read?
- How is the setting important to the story?
- Are there any symbols in the story? What do they stand for?
- What is the theme of the story? How is it shown?
- Did you see any foreshadowing in the story? What was it?
- Are there any flashbacks in the story? What were they?
- What was the climax of the story? Was it exciting, sad, boring?
- Characterize the protagonist or antagonist—physically, socially, and psychologically.
- Do any of the main characters change throughout the story? How?
- Does this work remind you of any other books, plays, short stories, or movies you have read or seen?
- Would you say the ending is happy, sad or somewhere in between? Why?
- What is the purpose of the minor characters?
- What does the beginning of the story reveal?

Please don't hesitate to email me at [thenessy@tjajags.com](mailto:thenessy@tjajags.com) with questions.  
-Coach Hennessy