ST. VINCENT- ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMER READING 2011*

ALL FRESHMEN

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl
by Joyce Carol Oates

SOPHOMORES

HONORS ENGLISH II

Beowulf Seamus Heaney translation
The Once and Future King by T.H. White
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

CP ENGLISH II

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

ENGLISH II

Holes by Louis Sachar

JUNIORS

AP AMERICAN STUDIES

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
by Maya Angelou
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

CP ENGLISH III

Beowulf Seamus Heaney translation
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

ENGLISH III

The Sword and the Circle
by Rosemary Sutcliff
The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency
By Alexander McCall Smith

SENIORS

AP COMP AND LIT

A Lesson Before Dying
by Ernest Gaines
Tuesdays with Morrie
by Mitch Albom
How to Read Literature Like A Professor by Thomas C. Foster
A Separate Peace by John Knowles
OR *The Poisonwood Bible*
by Barbara Kingsolver

HONORS ENGLISH IV

Any novel by Ernest Hemingway
EXCEPT *The Old Man and the Sea*
A Separate Peace by John Knowles

CP ENGLISH IV

The Glass Menagerie
by Tennessee Williams
Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

ENGLISH IV

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

**** During the last week of school, future sophomores and juniors received a PSAT packet and this reading list. The PSAT packet and all novels are to be completed by the first day of class in August if other deadlines have not been given by individual teachers. Incoming freshmen will receive questions for their novel with their schedules.

*These books should be available at your local libraries and bookstores.

Assignments for British Literature – Honors English II, CP English III, English III

Books for English III:

The Sword and the Circle by Rosemary Sutcliff

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

Books for CP English III:

Beowulf translated by Seamus Heaney (see note below)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Books for Honors English II:

Beowulf translation by Seamus Heaney. Please note: *Beowulf* was first recounted by Anglo-Saxon bards (scops) and passed down as oral tradition before Christianity came to England. When you see references to the Christian God, these were probably added by monks who first recorded the story and copied it in monasteries. You will notice references to "gods" and also to "God.") Please also note that this poem does not rhyme, but it does use alliteration and kennings. (A kenning is a type of metaphor; the sea is called the "whale-road" or a leader is called "shield of his people.")

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

Summer assignment for *all books:* Keep a journal as you read. A sample response is given below. You may type your response journals and submit them to manderson@stvm.com if you are in Honors English II or English III. CP English III students, please submit to summerreading@stvm.com. For each book, we expect you to have at least fifteen responses if you expect a C for this assignment, twenty if you expect a B, or twenty-five if you expect an A. (This, of course, assumes your responses are quality work!) You choose to respond to whatever you wish – a significant event in the book, the writer's style, a quotation, a question you have, etc. Please include at least four responses for each book that annotate effective sensory images. Your responses must be in standard English sentences. Include responses for all sections of the books; do not respond only to the beginning, middle, or end. (We have included an alternate assignment for *Beowulf*, if you prefer.)

Please submit responses for the first book by July 1st (July 8th for English III), the second book by August 1st, (August 8th for English III), and the third book (Honors) by August 21st. If you would like feedback on your journal entries, submit two or three entries by June 20th (June 27th for English III) and we will respond (with no penalty attached) and let you know the caliber of your work. You may refine or redo these sample journal entries if they are submitted by June 20th. If you opt to complete the entries for the entire book and submit them, there will be no opportunity for revision.

We are including sample responses so that you know what our expectations are. Enjoy!

Reader Responses to ***Jane Eyre***

Textual Reference	**Reader Responses**
"Joan is not here: tell mamma she is run out into the rain – bad animal." p. 13	I find the treatment of Jane by her relatives abhorrent and disgusting, demonstrated by the favor shown to her cousins over her, and the treatment she receives from her aunt as well as her cousins, being called an animal and talked to with a complete absence in regard to her dignity.
"'Unjust! Unjust!' said my reason, forced by the agonizing stimulus into precious though transitory power… How all my brain was in tumult, and all my heart in insurrection!" p. 21	This feeling that Jane is feeling struck me because I have felt this desperation between emotion and logic, mind and heart, though on a much lesser scale. I believe this is the first of many universal themes that are timeless and recognized by Brontë and presented throughout the novel.
Jane cries and feels rejected after hearing a song which was sung by the only member of the Reed house, Bessie, who seems to care for and love Jane. p. 28-29	It is necessary to be reminded of humanity during times of conflict, as we are when Jane is troubled by the song about the orphan. It reminds us of the troubled history Jane has.
"'How can she bear it so quietly – so firmly?' I asked of myself. 'Were I in her place, it seems to me I should wish the earth to open up and swallow me up.'" P.63	I had forgotten, with how maturely she handled the journey to Lowood, how young and childish she is. Hearing how she is feeling distressed by the way her classmate is being punished is a reminder to me how young and innocent Jane is, despite over-developed emotional growth.
"It is weak and silly to say you *cannot* bear what it is your fate to be required to bear." p.69	This idea is one of many overreaching themes that I feel will have later applications as life develops for Jane. She will most likely, based on her history, be forced to face other challenges in which this idea about bearing pain will come to the forefront.

***Beowulf* – Translation by Seamus Heaney**

Directions: Choose one question from each section and explain your answer *as if you were talking to someone who has not read the book*. Be thorough and answer in complete sentences. You should, of course, be prepared to discuss **all** questions in class. Please label the sections and question numbers to facilitate grading. E-mail your answers to me at manderson@stvm.com.

Part I Lines 1-370

1. Why are Hrothgar's and Grendel's lineage given? Why are they important? What do you foresee happening, knowing the lineage of these two characters?
2. What is Heorot? Why was it built? How long has it lain empty? Why? What is its importance in this culture?
3. Why does Beowulf come to Denmark? How is he greeted by the guard? How does the herald announce him to Hrothgar?

Part II Lines 371-835

1. What does Hrothgar know about Beowulf? What information does Beowulf's greeting include?
2. How does Unferth taunt Beowulf? How does Beowulf respond to this? How does Wealhtheow react to Beowulf?
3. Why does Beowulf meet Grendel bare-handed? Why are weapons useless? What happens to Grendel?

Part III Lines 836-1250

1. Why do crowds come to Heorot? What do they find that delights them?
2. What is the song of Sigemund? What happened to King Heremod? What is the song of Finn? Why are these stories important?
3. How does Hrothgar reward Beowulf when the feast is over? What important values of this culture have been displayed?

Part IV Lines 1251-1650

1. What happens the night after Beowulf defeats Grendel? How does Hrothgar respond? What request does Hrothgar make of B?
2. Describe the lake where Grendel and his mother lived, and the lair to which Beowulf goes. How does Beowulf defeat her?
3. What new side of Unferth is seen? How do you account for this change from his first encounter with Beowulf?

Part V Lines 1651-1887

1. What sign of victory does Beowulf give to Hrothgar? What story does Hrothgar decipher on the sword hilt? How does Beowulf feel his life was saved?
2. What is the story of Heremod? What warning does Hrothgar give Beowulf in this story? What Christian elements are present?
3. What does Beowulf say to Unferth? What promises does Beowulf make as he takes leave of Hrothgar? Why is Hrothgar pleased with Beowulf? Why does Hrothgar cry?

Part VI Lines 1888-2220

1. What does Beowulf give the boat watcher? How are the Geats greeted when they arrive home? What is the story of Modthryth? What cultural values are displayed here?

2. Why didn't Hygelac initially allow Beowulf to go to Hrothgar's aid? What changed his mind? What gifts does Beowulf give Hygelac? What does Hygelac give Beowulf?
3. What does Beowulf think about Hrothgar's plan concerning Freawaru and Ingeld?
4. When does Beowulf assume the throne of Geatland? How long does he rule peacefully What breaks the peace?

Part VII Lines 2221-2601

1. How does the tower come to be the dragon's lair? Why does the dragon burn down the Geats' homes? How does Beowulf react?
2. What order does Beowulf make for his battle with the dragon? What does he recall about his upbringing? What is the lesson of Herebeald? What does Beowulf say in his last boast? What does he say to his men?
3. How does Beowulf call the dragon? How does the dragon respond? What do Beowulf's thanes do?

Part VIII Lines 2602-3057

1. How did Wiglaf come to own his armor? Why does he go to Beowulf's aid? How is Beowulf wounded? How is the dragon killed?
2. What does Beowulf ask of Wiglaf after he is wounded? When Wiglaf returns from fulfilling Beowulf's request, what further request does Beowulf make?
3. What does Wiglaf say to the other thanes when they return? What message does Wiglaf send to the people? What is the Swedes' argument with the Geats? What do the warriors see that causes them to weep?

Part IX Lines 3058-3182

1. What does Wiglaf vainly attempt to tell Beowulf before he seeks the dragon? According to Wiglaf, what were Beowulf's post-mortem instructions? Who is to bring wood for Beowulf's funeral?
2. Why does Wiglaf bring the seven noblest Geats to the dragon's treasure? What happens to the dragon's corpse? What happens to Beowulf's corpse?
3. How long does it take to build the tomb Beowulf has requested? Why do twelve of the bravest Geats ride around the tower? How is Beowulf described in the closing lines?