



# James Island Christian School

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2026 Summer Reading Assignment

Eleventh Grade Honors

The specific guidelines for 11th Grade, Honors follow:

***Beowulf New Verse Translation: By: Seamus Heaney***

***Beowulf New Verse Translation: ISBN: 0393320979***

Students will read the required book, ***Beowulf New Verse Translation***. An assignment will be given on this book during the first week of school. It may include objective and subjective questions pertaining to details of Seamus Heaney's ***Beowulf New Verse Translation***

**Annotations and Essay:** As students read, they should consider the hero Beowulf as a type of Christ. Each should look for passages he thinks demonstrate Christ as the heroic prototype for the Old English hero in Heaney's translation. The text should be highlighted and include marginal notes explaining each highlighted passage as a parallel to Christ. In addition, the student should highlight and annotate additional material with marginal notes that demonstrate the mixing of pagan and Christian elements which occur throughout the text. **A grade will be given for your highlighted and annotated text.**

**Project:** After the start of the 2026-2027 school year, students will complete an essay assignment and project covering *Beowulf New Verse Translation* for a test grade during the First Quarter.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic research demonstrates that summer reading helps prevent the summer slide, significant achievement gaps, among all student demographics. Consequently, unless a student has official accommodations on file with JICS, he is expected to read independently and without the help of audio recordings, movies, or any other reading aids.

**I acknowledge that I have read independently without the use of audio recordings, movies, and other printed reading aids like Sparknotes. Furthermore I have not used ChatGPT (AI) in my reading or written preparations. (Sign and return with your assignment on the first full day of school.)**

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_



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## 2026 Summer Reading Assignment

### Eleventh Grade CP English

Reading is essential to your success throughout the academic year, but it is also crucial to your brain development over the summer. Research shows that students who read, produce better writing, perform better on assessments, and think more critically. Simply put, it is important that you keep reading and thinking over the summer to prepare for our English class and the academic year.

Rising 11th Grade CP students should read and annotate one of the following novels. Students will also complete a written response to be submitted the first day of class!

*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien ([Amazon Link](#))

OR

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson ([Amazon Link](#))

#### **If you choose *The Hobbit*, respond to the the following prompt:**

Throughout the novel, the theme of good versus evil plays a vital role. In *The Hobbit*, J. R. R. Tolkien portrays evil as a powerful and dangerous force that threatens both the individual and the community.. Using specific examples from the text, analyze how Tolkien demonstrates the strength of evil and the challenges it creates for his characters. Be sure to think about what Tolkien seems to claim about the ongoing battle of good vs. evil.

#### **If you choose *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, respond to the following prompt:**

Throughout the novel, the theme of good vs. evil is present. Stevenson depicts the duality of good vs. evil within human nature through his protagonist and antagonist. Using specific examples from the novella, discuss how this internal struggle is represented and what comment Stevenson is making regarding human nature.

Your written response should meet the following:

- Your response should be a minimum of a page in length.
- Your response should be typed and written in accordance with MLA formatting.
- You should have a thesis statement, based on the chosen prompt.
- No 1st person (I, you, us, we).
- Make sure to use specific examples from the text to prove your points.

As we begin our British Literature course, we will explore the theme of good versus evil, so be prepared to apply your knowledge of your chosen text to our discussion! Happy reading!

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