

English 4 Honors Summer Assignment

Purchase a copy of Grendel by John Gardner. It costs about \$11.00.

Purchase a **composition book** (not a spiral-bound notebook). It costs about \$2.00. Write your **name** on the front of the composition book, and beneath it, write “**English 4 Honors**”. Title the first page of the journal “**Table of Contents**”. Create the first entry in your journal’s table of contents and title the next blank page of your journal with that entry’s title: “**Grendel Summer Assignment**”.

There are eighteen quotations from throughout the novel to which you are expected to respond. **Copy** down each quote along with its **number**, **highlight** it, and respond **beneath** it. Your response for each quotation should be a **paragraph** (at least five complete sentences) that includes the **context** (when, where, who, what, etc.), the **meaning** (both the literal and that which is not quite so obvious), and the **significance** (what the quotation might mean for the novel’s meaning as a whole) of the quoted text. Write your best, paying attention to the conventions of Standard Written English: proper sentence structure (no fragments or run-ons), spelling, usage (their/they’re/there, its/it’s, to/too/two, etc.), and style. Your responses will be graded for informed accuracy, depth of **analysis**, and proper **mechanics**.

Read **chapters 1-3** and look the following quotes; mark them so that you can return to them to make informed, thoughtful responses:

1. “Playing cat and mouse with the universe”
2. “See all life without observing it”
3. “There was nothing, or, rather, there was everything but my mother”
4. “I create the whole universe, blink by blink.”
5. “The world is all pointless accident.” 6. “Lost!”

Once you’ve completed #1-6, read **chapters 4-8** and locate these quotations so that you can then respond to them with careful insight:

7. “Knowledge is not cause.”
8. “Connectedness is the essence of everything.”
9. “The essence of life is to be found in the frustrations of established order.”
10. “Novel order . a primary requisite for important experience.” 11. “Importance is derived from the immanence of infinitude in the finite.” 12. “Balance is everything.”

Once you’ve completed #7-10, read **chapters 9-12** of the novel and keep an eye out for the following quotes for your final six responses:

13. “Tedium is the worst pain.”
14. “The pastness of the past”?
15. “Nihil ex nihilo, I always say.”
16. “The vision of the dragon”
17. “Things fade; alternatives exclude.”
18. “Poor Grendel’s had an accident ... So may you all.”

This journal assignment is due on **August 10th** (the first day of school). Be sure that all of your work is your own. If you write something in this journal, you are personally guaranteeing that it is an idea of your own creation. Imitating the language, thought, idea, or expression of another human (either in-person or over-the-internet) and representing it as your own original work is an intellectual, academic, and moral failure. Zeros, referrals, and removal from honor societies are all reasonable consequences for an individual who chooses to cheat in this way. The best way is the most sincere one; set aside quiet time to clear your head, read carefully, think deeply, and write honestly.