

Beowulf Research Topic Assignments

Block: B1

A. Celtic Heroes and Heroines 1. Who were the Celts? 2. What role did mythology and religion play in their culture? 3. What defines and “Celtic legend”? What Celtic legends have survived?	● n/a
B. The Roman influence on Celtic Culture 1. What changes did the Romans bring to Celtic culture, both positive and negative?	● n/a
C. The Origin of Anglo-Saxons Culture 1. How did the term “Anglo-Saxon” come about? 2. What were the key features of this age of warriors?	● Shelly Peskin
D. Women in Anglo-Saxon Culture 1. What place did women have in Anglo-Saxon culture? 2. What roles did women assume?	● Erin ● Yasmeen
E. Anglo-Saxon Daily Life 1. Describe a day-in-the-life for a typical Anglo-Saxon citizen. 2. What activities occupied their time?	● Rachel Kim ● Janice Liu
F. Anglo-Saxon Religion 1. Who were the Anglo-Saxon deities? 2. What role did they play in Anglo-Saxon religion? 3. Have any legends survived that talk about these Anglo-Saxon gods?	● Mitchell
G. Anglo-Saxon Literary Techniques and Traditions 1. What is a kenning and how were kennings used in Anglo-Saxon literature? 2. What is the importance of alliteration in Anglo-Saxon literature? 3. What position did scopos hold in Anglo-Saxon culture? 4. How was the caesura used in Anglo-Saxon literature?	● n/a

H. Anglo-Saxon Riddles 1. What was the purpose of riddles in Anglo-Saxon culture? 2. What is the Exeter book? 3. Have any examples survived?	● Gregory Stathis ● Alex Withers
I. The Bards: Singing of Gods and Heroes 1. What is a bard? 2. What influence did bards have on the evolution of literature?	● Venkatesh Kunduru ● Leah Milano
J. Christian Influence on Anglo-Saxon Literary History 1. How did the introduction of Christianity influence Anglo-Saxon recorded history? 2. Can this influence be seen in surviving literary works today? How?	● Steven Jahn
K. Vikings 1. Who were the Vikings? 2. What did it mean to be a Viking? 3. Why are they known as some of the first explorers? 4. What made Viking ships unique?	● Natalie Brennan ● Yidan Li
L. Beowulf—An Introduction 1. What is known about the original story of Beowulf? 2. How does this story in particular represent the Anglo-Saxon heroic ideal? 3. What qualities did the Anglo-Saxons value in their heroes? How are these qualities seen in the story of Beowulf?	● Zhanhong Liu
M. The Epic Hero 1. What is an epic? 2. What makes a hero epic? 3. What are some literary examples depicting epic heroes?	● Jordan Ricca ● Casey Straley
N. Dragon Symbolism 1. Why are dragons so prevalent in literature, especially epic tales such as Beowulf? 2. What countries/regions in the world have dragons in their mythology/literature and culture? 3. What are some literary examples featuring dragons?	● Russell Horn ● Camille Sygengco