

English Literature and History Assignment 1

We begin our year of lessons in English Literature and History with the Briton Period. As you already know from our class, the language spoken in England at this time was not English, but Welsh (or Celtic). The literature that we will be reading, then, involves the people of Briton, but was all written in English.

English Literature

- Memorize the vocabulary for Thomas Malory's "Mixed Fealties" in your study guide and do the vocabulary exercise. Read the story in your reader and answer the multiple choice questions in your study guide. Read "Literary Terms: Arthurian Legend," which follows. I might quiz you on the content.
- Students work hard and are "worth their salt." Do you know where that expression comes from—"worth their salt"? It comes from the Romans, the conquerors of the British island, who paid their soldiers in salt. As students, you will not be paid in salt, however, but in Anglo-Saxon dollars. Look at the "Economic System of the Class" under "Materials Needed" on the assignment page.
- Listen to the Welsh Language Audio found in Materials Needed (Miscellaneous); click on the arrow button. The reading is from a very famous passage. Can you tell what it is from? I will give an Ini (10 Anglo Saxon dollars) to anyone who can tell me. You have to write your answer on a piece of paper, and you cannot consult your parents, friends or classmates for the answer!
- Begin reading J. R. R. Tolkien, *Hobbit*. Complete the book is due the third week of October. Many of you may have already read it, but if it has been some time since you last did, read it again. We will look at it more closely at the end of October.



English History

- Read English History Chapter 1 and answer the questions in your study guide.
- Relive a trip I took about thirty years ago to Dorchester by clicking on the hyperlink found in Materials Needed (Miscellaneous). Dorchester was an old fort which the Romans built in England, and is just one of the many vestiges of the Roman presence on the island. I was particularly interested in the town, as Thomas Hardy lived in the suburbs of Dorchester and the settings of his novels are all based on actual places that can be seen in the town. You will be reading Thomas Hardy's description of a Roman coliseum located in Dorchester (the fictional "Casterbridge") later on in the year.