

English Literature and History Assignment 3

Literature

- Read Poetry and Poetics **Blog** for the Poetry Night. You can find the blog in the menu, under “Resources.”
- Memorize stanza 3 of “The Sun Has Long Been Set” by William Wordsworth, found in the appendix of your reader. I will have you recite it in class.
- Read Geoffrey of Monmouth’s history of *King Leir* and complete the study guide material carefully. I will look over your study guide questions in class.
- Read Charles Lamb’s “King Lear” and answer questions on the reading in your study guide. Read “Literary Terms: Tragedy.” Review both King Lear stories and assuming the Charles Lamb followed pretty closely to the Shakespeare plot, think about the differences between Shakespeare’s rendition and Geoffrey of Monmouth’s account. Be able to talk about those differences in class. We will be writing an essay on the differences, *due the last week of September*.
- Read the excerpt of the tragedy of *King Lear* by Shakespeare and complete all of the study guide material. You may want to watch this wonderful performance of *King Lear* and follow along in your book.
- We will have a celebration of the Battle of Hastings Day on **October 16 (observed)**. The real date is October 14. We will have a cake complete with the map and depiction of the Battle of Hastings, courtesy of my daughter Elsa.
- The picture on this assignment page is of Lear (lying down) and Cordelia.



History

No history assignment.

Long-term Assignments

- * Continue reading the *Hobbit*. We will be discussing the book in class and will be writing an expository essay comparing it to the English epic Beowulf (in your reader). J.R.R. Tolkien was a professor of Medieval literature at Oxford University and was influenced by the epic when he wrote his children’s books.
- * Comparison essay on *King Lear*, due the fourth week of October.