Deor

Welund tasted misery among snakes.
The stout-hearted hero endured troubles
had sorrow and longing as his companions
cruelty cold as winter - he often found woe
Once Nithad laid restraints on him,
supple sinew-bonds on the better man.
That went by; so can this.
To Beadohilde, her brothers' death was not
so painful to her heart as her own problem
which she had readily perceived
that she was pregnant; nor could she ever
foresee without fear how things would turn out.
That went by, so can this.
We have learnt of the laments of Mathild,
of Geat's lady, that they became countless
so that the painful passion took away all sleep.
That went by, so can this.
For thirty years Theodric possessed
the Maring's stronghold; that was known to many.
That went by, so can this.
We have heard of Eormanric's
wolfish mind; he ruled men in many places
in the Goths' realm - that was a grim king.
Many a man sat surrounded by sorrows,
misery his expectation, he often wished
that the kingdom would be overcome.
That went by, so may this.
A heavy-hearted man sits deprived of luck.
He grows gloomy in his mind and thinks of himself
that his share of troubles may be endless.
He can then consider that throughout this world
the wise Lord often brings about change
to many a man, he shows him grace
and certain fame; and to some a share of woes.
I wish to say this about myself:
That for a time I was the Heodenings' poet,
dear to my lord - my name was "Deor".
For many years I had a profitable position,
a loyal lord until now that Heorrenda,
the man skilled in song, has received the estate
which the warriors' guardian had given to me.
That went by, so can this.

Why do we read Literature?

---

from Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood" (read this poem after you read "John & Barbara's Story"

THERE was a time when meadow, grove, and stream,
The earth, and every common sight,
To me did seem
Apparell'd in celestial light,
The glory and the freshness of a dream.
It is not now as it hath been of yore;—
Turn wheresoe'er I may,
By night or day,
The things which I have seen I now can see no more.
The rainbow comes and goes,
And lovely is the rose;
The moon doth with delight
Look round her when the heavens are bare;
Waters on a starry night
Are beautiful and fair;
The sunshine is a glorious birth;
But yet I know, where'er I go,
That there hath pass'd away a glory from the earth….

****
What though the radiance which was once so bright
Be now for ever taken from my sight,
Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;

Homework – Buy or obtain from your local library, John Gardner's *Grendel* (or order it online) – make sure you have it in your hands by Monday 09/21

On Reading Homework: There will be a short content quiz at the beginning of each period – if you read, you should get 100% - if you don't you will get better as the year progresses – you will not do well if you skim or read summaries of the material instead of the material itself.

Thursday or Friday (depending on your day): "John and Barbara's Story" and a very short essay (see handout – Do ESSAY First). Read the excerpt from the above poem too, and *be prepared to say how you think it could be connected to John and Barbara's story*!
Monday or Tuesday: The Introduction to the Anglo-Saxons in your text books pages 2-16. Be sure to read all of the inset boxes and you can glance over the timeline before and after you do your reading to give you a little context. This reading is bigger and is worth 200 points. Don't memorize dates except for 1066… - know where England is and what language Shakespeare wrote in.
Weds: No Homework – do not read ahead…
Thursday or Friday (9/17 ; 9/18) : *Beowulf* reading 1: pages 18 – 35 (up to but don't start Part 10)
Monday or Tuesday(9/21;9/22): pages 35-41 (read the entire page including part 13) and read the additional handout you will get from me, **then** read pages 41-49.