

## Essay Prompt for *Grendel* Due Friday 10/12

Write an 800-1,000 word essay analyzing a few of John Gardner's deconstructions. What does he deconstruct, how does he do it, and most importantly, why? What is Gardner's main thematic or ideological goal in this book?

Consider two or three of the following:

- ✍ Human/Animal/Monster
- ✍ Language and Stories
- ✍ The Epic
- ✍ Biblical Stories
- ✍ Insider versus Outsider (US and THEM)
- ✍ The Idea of Fate
- ✍ Glory, Death, and the Idea of a Hero

Look for a way to combine two or three of the above to reach that larger question (which will frame your thesis).

Other Helpful Pointers:

- ✍ MLA formatting applies
- ✍ Include at least three properly formatted quotes from the novel—cite by author and page number. For example, “my advice to you, my violent friend, is to seek out gold and sit on it” (Gardner 74).
- ✍ The final question in the prompt is your thesis question—make sure to answer it as the last sentence of your intro.
- ✍ Sentences two and three of the prompt should lead you towards your number of body paragraphs and how to order them.