

MEMO

To: Firth's Gifted British Literature Students in 3rd, 4th, and 7th Period

From: Mary Firth

Cc: Pam McKee, La'Monica Tellis, Jason Harper

Date: August 29, 2016

Re: Mary Firth's repeated absences

Students, I am so sorry to be out again today. My 91-year-old grandmother passed away last Wednesday, and I have gone with my mother to spread her ashes on my grandfather's grave in Rome, Georgia. However, I am leaving you in Ms. McKee's capable hands, and as a retired former Lakeside teacher, she knows the ropes. I will be back tomorrow. What I would like for you to do this period is this:

First, get your vocab words and Latin terms.

Solicitous	Anxious, showing care & concern, fear	Asking a teacher for a favor after you've done something stupid
Garnish	A flourish, an extra trimming, a decoration	The little piece of parsley on your spaghetti plate
Absolution	Forgiveness of sins, wiping the slate clean	What Ms. Firth does after you come to detention
Commission	To give money/authority in order to take on a task	If you hired an artist to paint your portrait
Id Est	You've likely seen this term in writing before, even if you weren't aware as it is commonly abbreviated to i.e. . In Latin, it means "that is" and is used in English when the speaker or writer wants to give an explanation that specifies a statement. (i.e. = in other words)	Mrs. Firth has a department chair meeting, i.e., a torture session, after school today.
Deus ex machina	In direct translation, this term means, "God out of a machine" and it harkens back ancient Greek and Roman plays. When the plot would become too tangled or confusing, the writers would simply bring in a god, lowered in via a pulley system (the machine) and he would wrap it all up. Today, it's still used in literature to describe a plot where an artificial or improbable means of resolving a conflict is used.	TV shows where bad things were "all just a dream" or when characters are resurrected from the dead, etc.

Second, hand in your group's *BeeDubya: The Beatdown Continues* analysis pages if you haven't done so already. **Hang on to your Gifted Continuation Letters until tomorrow.**

Third, get a copy of *Beowulf* and read the final section, lines 2211-3182. This is the section covering the last battle, the spoils of the battle, and the final farewell. Ms. McKee will give you the last study guide for *Beowulf*.

Things of which you should be aware:

- Pretty sure you'll have a reading quiz over the last part of *Beowulf* on Wednesday-ish. If you need to catch up on your reading at home, **please do not take** one of my classroom books. There is a link under "links" on our class website to a full pdf of the book online.
- Old English recitation is due a week from Wednesday.
- *Beowulf*/Anglo-Saxon period Unit Exam is a week from Wednesday.
- Your projects (remember them???) are due a week from Thursday.
- You can email me if you have any problems or questions! **Mary_Firth@dekalbschoolsga.org**