



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
HARRIS

MIDTERM ESSAY
ENGLISH 201

Your essay is to be at least 1000 words long. Bring it to the Midterm Exam. Hand it in. It is the essay question for the midterm exam.

The question is:

You have read 8 poems: Virgil, *Eclogue 1*; Horace, *Epode 2*; "Caedmon's Hymn"; *The Wanderer*; *Beowulf*; the *Dream of the Rood*; Marie de France, *Lanval*; and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. (You are not responsible for Chaucer yet.) Choose **one** poem only.

Describe, in order, **three** feelings, sensations, or ideas that you had while reading the poem. For example, did you feel particularly sad at one point? Did you sense desolation? Did you imagine revenge was on the horizon?

Then, try to figure out **how** the author made you feel that way. Which words did it? Did the syntax (order of words) affect you? Were the images carried by adjectives, nouns, or verbs? Was the author understated? Was only part of an image used (metonymy)? And so on ... you get the idea.

IN SHORT:

1. Name the poem you chose.
2. Isolate a single feeling, sensation, or idea.
3. Speculate on how the author made you feel that way.
4. Repeat #2 and #3.
5. Repeat #2 and #3.
6. Spell-check and grammar-check the essay.
7. Bring the finished essay to class on the date due.