

**English 10 CP / English 10
Summer Reading Requirements 2017-2018**

There is one reading requirement for incoming sophomores taking British Literature, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman. In the following document, there are mandatory reading guides and activities. Please read all directions carefully.

All work will be handed in on Monday August 28, 2017. All work must be typed using Times New Roman text, 12 pt. font and double spacing. A heading should appear at the top of the first page and be formatted as indicated below. A title should follow, centered on the next line, and contain the information necessary to determine which activity follows.

Student first and last name

Mrs. Henson (or your teacher's last name)

British Literature 121

28 August 2016

Your required work (to be handed into me) includes the following:

1. Your reading guide
2. Your project (one of the two choices indicated)

Reading Guide: Answer in complete sentences

As you read, answer the questions that follow. These must be typed. The questions will be useful in preparing for the formal assessment (test) that will take place within the first week or two of school.

1. It would be easy to think of the Hempstocks as the "triple goddess" of popular mythology. (The triple goddess refers to three goddesses, each representing three aspects of life. Persephone, the "Maiden," representing purity and new beginnings. Demeter, the "Mother" represents the well-spring of life and is giving and compassionate. Hecate, the "Crone" represents wisdom, the culmination of a life-time of experience.) In what ways do they conform to those roles? In what ways are they different?
2. The narrator has returned to his hometown for a funeral (we never learn whose). Do you think that framing his childhood story with a funeral gives this story a pessimistic outlook, rather than an optimistic one? Why?
3. Because the narrator is male and most of the other characters are female, this story has the potential to become a stereotypical narrative where a male character saves the day. How does the story avoid that pitfall?
4. The story juxtaposes (puts side by side) the memories of childhood with the present of adulthood. In what ways do children perceive things differently than adults? Do you think there are situations in which a child's perspective can be more "truthful" than an adult's? Why or why not?
5. One of Ursula Monkton's main attributes is that she always tries to give people what they want. Why is this not always a good thing? What does Ursula want? How does Ursula use people's desires against them to get what she wants?

6. Water has many roles in this story—it can give and take life, reveal, and hide. How does it play these different roles in this novel?
7. One of the many motivators for the characters in this story is loneliness. What characters seem to suffer from loneliness? How do adults and children respond to loneliness in different ways? In the same ways?
8. Early in the story, the narrator tells us that his father often burnt their toast and always ate it with apparent relish. He also tells us that later in life, his father admitted that he had never actually liked burnt toast, but ate it to avoid waste, and that his father's confession made the narrator's entire childhood feel like a lie: "it was as if one of the pillars of belief that my world had been built upon had crumbled into dry sand." What other "pillars of belief" from childhood does he discover to be false? How do these discoveries affect him? Are there any beliefs from your own childhood that you discovered to be false?
9. When the narrative returns to the present, Old Mrs. Hempstock tells our narrator, "You stand two of you lot next to each other, and you could be continents away for all it means anything" (p. 173). What does she mean by this? Why is it "easier" for people, our narrator especially, to forget certain things that are difficult to deal with?
10. Though the narrator has a sister, he doesn't seem to be particularly close to her. Why do you think it is that he has trouble relating to other children? Why do you think his sister is not an ally for him?

Final Project: Due Monday August 28, 2017

You must pick one of the two options below. **All illustrations must be done by hand with pencils, crayons, markers, paints, etc. (If you are not a good artist, trace!)**

1. Create a CD soundtrack cover. Create ten to twelve song titles for the soundtrack. For one of these titles, create lyrics. The song should be ten to twelve lines with two verses, and include a chorus.
2. Create a Biopoem for three different characters from the novel. The format for the biopoem is as follows:
 - Line 1: Person's first and last name in capital letters (if not all of the information exists, provide what you do have)
 - Line 2: First name of the person
 - Line 3: Relative (brother, wife, daughter etc.) of
 - Line 4: Lover of (list three objects, people, or places)
 - Line 5: Who feels (three items)
 - Line 6: Who needs (three items)
 - Line 7: Who fears (three items)
 - Line 8: Who gives (three items)
 - Line 9: Who would like to see (three items)
 - Line 10: Resident of (city, state, region, or country)
 - Line 11: Last name of the person (or perhaps a title, alias, or nickname if no last name is given)

Each biopoem must be accompanied by illustrations. You may draw a picture of the character, or you may simply add symbolic objects to the margins of the poem. If you choose to include symbols, please be sure that the relationship between the character and the object is obvious.