

English 2332: Dual Credit

- *Re-read the opening passages for Beowulf.*
- *In Google Classroom, read the two supplied articles discussing the opening of Beowulf.*
- *Consider the opening of classic writings:*

“Call me Ishmael.” (Herman Melville)

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“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.” (Jane Austen)

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“It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen.”
(George Orwell)

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“Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.”
(Gabriel García Márquez)

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“It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.” (Charles Dickens)

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“It was a pleasure to burn.” (Ray Bradbury)

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“You better not never tell nobody but God. It’d kill your mammy.” (Alice Walker)

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Respond to the question:

How important is the discussion regarding the translation of Seamus Heaney’s *Beowulf* as “accurate”? Considering Modern English and Old English are tremendously different, does it matter what the opening word actually means? In other words, could this one introductory word affect the meaning of the overall epic?

- Cite textual evidence from one of the articles.