*Grendel* Essay Topics

Create a 4-6 page MLA formatted essay

Due Date: October 11th

1. John Gardner wrote *Grendel*, or at least we think he did, to open people’s minds. He shows us all the different ways one can think and live. How does John Gardner reveal the theme of prejudice in the novel?
2. Grendel is evil, or again, so one may think, depending on one’s definition. So is Grendel evil? Are we supposed to sympathize with him? Is he punished for his “evil deeds”? So write an essay proving that Grendel is or isn’t evil, using examples from the text.
3. Compare Beowulf and Grendel. Use point by point or subject by subject. Discuss what each piece does for the reader. Does one do more for the reader than the other?
4. Gardner wrote *Grendel* with twelve astrological signs discussed/displayed/compared/used in each of the twelve chapters. What does the use of astrological signs do for the reader? Help us understand Grendel? Ourselves? The world? Justify the use of/validity of the astrological signs in each chapter. Again, use examples from the text, the philosophy and astrological handout.
5. In literary pieces, minor characters contribute significantly to the total work. They often have particular functions, such as instruments in the plot, foils to the main characters, commentators on the action and theme, and the like. Write a well-organized essay showing how one such minor character functions in *Grendel*.