

Book List for *Early English Literature*

You will need the books highlighted in red below. All other documents and reading material (including the Skylarks version of *A Taste of Chaucer*) is provided in a printable PDF at the start of the course.

Summer: Optional

It might be beneficial to read one of the *Beowulf* stories written in an abridged form for children as an introduction to the story (the versions by Rosemary Sutcliff or Michael Morpurgo are often stocked in libraries).

From September 2026

Beowulf has been translated multiple times and you have a choice of which version you would like to use for your child.

- There is a free version translated by Francis B. Gummere. Please let me know if you would like a copy and I will email the PDF.
- If you already own a copy of *Beowulf* then you are welcome to use whatever edition you have already on your bookshelf as the differences between the various translations won't hinder class narrations and I will allocate reading by the line numbers rather than pages so we don't all need the same text.
- If you would like to buy a copy, I would recommend the Burton Raffel or Seamus Heaney translations. Raffel's version keeps a strong sense of the alliterative poetry but can be harder to understand. Heaney tries to balance the poetic elements with a more explanatory approach to the story so it is more easily readable.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien in any unabridged edition (we will be working from chapters rather than page numbers).