

## 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*) are 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).