

Dear Students —

Welcome to Humanities! This summer, you will have to do a summer reading (Seamus Heaney's translation of the book, *Beowulf*) and summer reading assignment. As you read, you are to write a short, accurate 2-page summary of the book. I have included an example below (using another book) of what it should look like. Use 1 inch margins, typed, Calibri 10-point font with a standard MLA heading.

Best Regards,

Dr. Lee

**Robert Sloan Lee**

**Dr. Lee**

**Humanities**

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***Nero by Joseph Abbott – Summarized***

Nero was born near Antium (on the seacoast about 30 miles south of the Tiber River). He was born into the Ahenobarus Family (i.e., the Brazen Beard Family). Nero's father and mother (Agrippina) were wealthy and corrupt people. Emperors in early Rome presided (during the period of the Republic) over the military and the senate was the highest authority. Roman military encampments were supplied by the tribute (or taxes) of the conquered peoples. The Roman military (while cruel) provided economic stability in the ancient world. After the Republic ended, the political power of the military became supreme. Abbott explains that great skill is required in establishing authority, but little is need in maintaining it – because people will endure a lot of in justice under and established authority (but will not easily accept a new authority). The military structure of Rome was so efficient that it could support extremely incompetent, stupid and cruel men – men like Caligula. Caligula's was cruel, wasteful, and incompetent. Caligula often tortured senators and their families. ...

*(The remainder of your summaries should look like this.)*