English II—Grade 12 Dougherty
Klausur #1, second semester
Nachklausur

Write a complete, well-developed essay about only one of the following topics.

1. Both *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales* continue to stimulate fervent critical debate over the likely moral stances of the Beowulf poet and Chaucer toward their respective societies. Is, for example, *Beowulf* ultimately an admonitory work about an Anglo-Saxon society in flux or a paean to a reigning heroic model? Does Chaucer present us with a representative group of travelers whom we are primarily to delight in or to despise? Discuss the morality and societal values that seem to provide the backdrop for *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales*, and then, using specific examples as evidence, define what you feel to be each author's overall attitude toward the world about which he writes.

2. Some seven centuries separate the tribal society of *Beowulf* from the courtly world out of which Chaucer writes. Using the societies represented through *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales* as your evidence, discuss whether the intervening centuries resulted in a more "civilized" culture. Be sure to define key terms if they are to be used as the basis for an argument.

Vocabulary aids: *admonitory*: mildly reproving, warning, or cautioning; *in flux*: in continual change; *paean*: joyous song of praise, thanks, or victory; *reigning*: governing; *intervene*: to interrupt, come between