**Collections 5 Synthesis Paper**

As we read the various texts associated with this collection titled “Taking Risks,” we have studied different characters that have taken risks in their lives.

At the end of this unit, you are being asked to submit a synthesis paper. In this paper, you will look at the short stories that we have read in this unit (both “The Deep” and “Blackheart”) and consider why each of the main characters has taken risks with their lives as well as what he or she learns from taking this risk. You will consider the risks Beowulf takes, why he took those risks, and what he learned from them. Then, you will synthesize your ideas as to why these characters took risks and what they learned from these experiences. The requirements for the paper are listed below as well. This paper will be worth multiple grades, so please be sure to be diligent with your work.

**Directions:** In a 5-6 page essay, please respond to the following prompt. Using the texts read in class, you must consider why the characters take the risks they do and what they learn from it, to then inform your own opinion on taking risks. You will need to pull evidence from all three texts we read in class. You must pull evidence from all three texts. Final essays must be typed in MLA format with proper citations.

**Prompt:**

Why do the characters and people in the texts in this collection take the risks they do? What do they learn from their risk-taking experiences? Synthesize your ideas by preparing and presenting an argument about the importance of taking risks in life.

**Checklist:**

* 5-6 page essay
  + Introduction
  + Clear Thesis
  + Supporting paragraphs
  + Conclusion
* MLA Format
  + Size 12 font
  + Times New Roman
  + Double-spaced
  + Heading w/ Header
  + Citations
  + Works Cited page
* 3 texts cited with multiple pieces of evidence from each
  + “Beowulf” – an epic poem translated by Burton Raffel
  + “Blackheart” – a short story by Mark Brazaitis
  + “The Deep” – a short story by Anthony Doerr