

BRIT LIT  
Crime Test  
Volume 8

## MEMORIZATION: (70 pts)

*Orally deliver to your instructor the following selections:*

- First four lines of *Beowulf* in Anglo Saxon \_\_\_\_\_ / 10  
Selection from *Beowulf* in modern English \_\_\_\_\_ / 10  
Beginning of *The Canterbury Tales* in Middle English \_\_\_\_\_ / 10  
Shakespeare's *Sonnet 116* \_\_\_\_\_ / 10  
Donne's *Holy Sonnet 14* \_\_\_\_\_ / 10  
Shelley's *Ozymandias* \_\_\_\_\_ / 10  
Hopkins's *Pied Beauty* \_\_\_\_\_ / 10

## ESSAY: (40 pts)

*On a separate sheet of paper, write an essay of **400-500 words** discussing the following question. Make sure that you include specific details from the text and demonstrate engagement with the material and original thought.*

What is the general purpose of the very specific prohibitions in "The 10 Commandments of Detective Fiction"? Now, evaluate the stories you read by Conan Doyle, Sayers, Chesterton, and Christie on the grounds of those ten rules. Take special note of any place where a rule was broken, and then explain why that is acceptable or why it wasn't. Just to be kind, here's Ronald Knox's complete list for reference:

- 1. The criminal must be mentioned in the early part of the story, but must not be anyone whose thoughts the reader has been allowed to know.*
- 2. All supernatural or preternatural agencies are ruled out as a matter of course.*
- 3. Not more than one secret room or passage is allowable.*
- 4. No hitherto undiscovered poisons may be used, nor any appliance which will need a long scientific explanation at the end.*
- 5. No Chinaman must figure in the story.*
- 6. No accident must ever help the detective, nor must he ever have an unaccountable intuition which proves to be right.*
- 7. The detective himself must not commit the crime.*
- 8. The detective is bound to declare any clues which he may discover.*
- 9. The "sidekick" of the detective, the Watson, must not conceal from the reader any thoughts which pass through his mind: his intelligence must be slightly, but very slightly, below that of the average reader.*
- 10. Twin brothers, and doubles generally, must not appear unless we have been duly prepared for them.*