

burton raffel beowulf mla citation

burton raffel beowulf mla citation is an essential keyword phrase for students, educators, and scholars engaged in literary studies, particularly those focusing on epic poetry and Old English literature. Burton Raffel's translation of the ancient epic Beowulf is widely acclaimed for its accessibility and literary quality, making it a popular choice for academic citation. Properly citing Raffel's translation in MLA format is crucial for academic integrity, clarity, and scholarly communication. This article provides an in-depth guide on how to create a correct and polished MLA citation for Burton Raffel's Beowulf translation. It also explores the significance of the translation, offers examples of in-text and works cited entries, and addresses common citation challenges. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of MLA citation standards as applied to this specific work, ensuring accurate referencing in research papers and essays.

- Understanding Burton Raffel's Beowulf Translation
- MLA Citation Basics for Literary Translations
- How to Cite Burton Raffel's Beowulf in MLA Format
- Examples of In-Text Citations and Works Cited Entries
- Common Challenges and Tips for Accurate Citation

Understanding Burton Raffel's Beowulf Translation

Burton Raffel's translation of Beowulf is a modern English rendition of the Old English epic poem, originally composed between the 8th and 11th centuries. Raffel's version is celebrated for its readability and poetic rhythm, making the ancient story accessible to contemporary readers while preserving the heroic tone of the original text. His translation is often used in academic settings due to its balance of scholarly accuracy and literary appeal. Recognizing the importance of Raffel's work is key to understanding why precise citation practices are necessary when referencing his translation in scholarly writing.

The Significance of Raffel's Translation

Raffel's Beowulf stands out for its clear narrative voice and faithful adherence to the poem's thematic elements. Unlike earlier translations that might prioritize literal word-for-word accuracy, Raffel's approach emphasizes

the flow and spirit of the epic, which aids students and readers new to Beowulf. This translation is frequently included in anthologies and literature courses, underscoring its academic relevance. Proper citation ensures that Raffel receives appropriate credit and helps readers locate the exact edition used.

Publication Details of Raffel's Beowulf

When citing Raffel's translation, it is important to reference the specific edition consulted. The most commonly cited edition is published by Signet Classics, a reputable imprint. The full citation typically includes the translator's name, the title of the work, the publisher, and the year of publication. Knowing these details is essential for creating a precise MLA citation for Burton Raffel Beowulf MLA citation purposes.

MLA Citation Basics for Literary Translations

The Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style provides a standardized format for referencing literary works, including translated texts. When citing a translation, MLA requires both the original author and the translator to be acknowledged, ensuring clarity about the source of the interpretation. Understanding the components of an MLA citation for a translated literary work is fundamental to academic writing in the humanities.

Key Elements of MLA Citation for Translations

MLA citation for a translated work typically includes the following elements:

- **Original Author:** The creator of the original text, in this case, the anonymous author of Beowulf.
- **Title of the Work:** The title of the poem or book, italicized.
- **Translator's Name:** The person who translated the work, preceded by "Translated by."
- **Publisher:** The name of the publishing company.
- **Publication Year:** The year the translation was published.

These components are arranged in a specific order to comply with MLA standards, facilitating clear and consistent citations.

Format Variations for Different Source Types

MLA citation format can vary depending on whether the source is a print book, an e-book, or part of an anthology. For Burton Raffel's *Beowulf*, most citations will reference a print edition, but adjustments might be necessary if the text is accessed digitally. Understanding these variations enhances citation accuracy and ensures proper attribution.

How to Cite Burton Raffel's *Beowulf* in MLA Format

Creating an MLA citation for Burton Raffel's *Beowulf* translation involves following the established guidelines for translated literary works. This section outlines the correct structure and components required to format the citation properly, ensuring that academic papers meet MLA standards.

Basic Citation Structure

The general format for citing Burton Raffel's *Beowulf* in MLA style is as follows:

1. **Author's Name:** Since *Beowulf*'s author is anonymous, the citation begins with the title of the work.
2. **Title:** *Beowulf*, italicized.
3. **Translator:** "Translated by Burton Raffel."
4. **Publisher:** The publishing company's name.
5. **Publication Year:** The year the translation was published.

For example, if citing the Signet Classics edition, the citation would follow this model.

Example of a Full MLA Works Cited Entry

A properly formatted citation for Raffel's *Beowulf* translation might look like this:

- *Beowulf*. Translated by Burton Raffel, Signet Classics, 2000.

This concise citation includes all necessary information for identifying the source clearly.

Examples of In-Text Citations and Works Cited Entries

In addition to the full Works Cited entry, MLA style requires in-text citations to credit sources within the body of a paper. This section provides examples of how to cite Burton Raffel's *Beowulf* both within the text and in the reference list.

In-Text Citation Format

In-text citations for Raffel's *Beowulf* typically include the title of the work (if no author is named) and the line or page number referenced. Since *Beowulf* is a poem, citing line numbers is common practice. The citation appears in parentheses immediately after the quotation or paraphrase.

Example:

- "So the spear-Danes in days gone by / And the kings who ruled them had courage and greatness" (*Beowulf* lines 1–2).

Works Cited Entry Correspondence

The in-text citation corresponds to the full citation in the Works Cited list that provides complete publication details. This two-part citation system ensures that readers can easily locate the source material.

Common Challenges and Tips for Accurate Citation

Correctly citing Burton Raffel's *Beowulf* translation can present challenges, especially for those unfamiliar with MLA guidelines or the nuances of citing translated works. This section highlights common pitfalls and offers practical advice to maintain citation accuracy.

Dealing with Anonymous Authorship

Because *Beowulf*'s author is unknown, the title takes the place of the author's name in citations. This substitution can confuse writers new to MLA style, but understanding this rule simplifies the process. Always begin citations with the title when no author is available.

Consistency in Line Number Citation

When referencing specific passages, it is important to consistently use line numbers rather than page numbers, especially since various editions may paginate the text differently. Line numbers provide a universal reference point within the poem, aiding scholarly discourse.

Additional Tips for MLA Compliance

- Use italics for the title *Beowulf* in both in-text citations and Works Cited entries.
- Include the translator's name explicitly to acknowledge their contribution.
- Verify publisher and publication year information from the specific edition used.
- Maintain double-spacing and hanging indentations in the Works Cited list, as required by MLA style.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I cite Burton Raffel's translation of Beowulf in MLA format?

In MLA format, cite Burton Raffel's Beowulf translation as follows: Raffel, Burton, translator. Beowulf. Edited by [Editor's Name, if applicable], [Publisher], [Year].

What is the correct MLA in-text citation for Burton Raffel's Beowulf?

The MLA in-text citation for Burton Raffel's Beowulf typically includes the author's name and the line or page number, for example: (Raffel 45) or (Beowulf, trans. Raffel 45).

Can I use Burton Raffel's Beowulf translation for academic papers?

Yes, Burton Raffel's Beowulf is widely accepted in academic settings, and you can cite it using MLA format as per your institution's guidelines.

How do I format the Works Cited entry for Burton Raffel's Beowulf in MLA?

A typical Works Cited entry in MLA for Burton Raffel's Beowulf is: Raffel, Burton, translator. Beowulf. [Publisher], [Year]. If there is an editor, include their name after the title.

Is it necessary to include the original author of Beowulf when citing Burton Raffel's translation in MLA?

No, since Beowulf is an anonymous Old English epic, you cite the translator (Burton Raffel) as the author in MLA format.

How do I cite a specific passage from Burton Raffel's Beowulf in MLA style?

Include the translator's last name and the page number in parentheses after the quote, for example: (Raffel 102). If quoting lines, you can reference line numbers if available.

Does MLA format require the translator's name when citing Burton Raffel's Beowulf?

Yes, MLA format requires the translator's name to be included in the citation when you are referencing a translated work like Burton Raffel's Beowulf.

How do I cite an online version of Burton Raffel's Beowulf in MLA?

Include the translator, title, website name, publisher (if available), publication date, URL, and access date. For example: Raffel, Burton, translator. Beowulf. [Website Name], [Publisher], [Year], URL. Accessed [Date].

Do I need to mention Burton Raffel as translator in MLA Works Cited if I only mention Beowulf in the paper?

Yes, the Works Cited entry must include Burton Raffel as translator to properly credit the version you used, even if you only mention Beowulf in the text.

What details are required for a full MLA citation of

Burton Raffel's Beowulf translation?

A full MLA citation requires the translator's name, the title of the work, the editor if applicable, the publisher, the publication year, and format or URL if accessed online.

Additional Resources

1. *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation by Burton Raffel*

This book is Burton Raffel's acclaimed translation of the Old English epic, Beowulf. Known for its accessible and poetic language, Raffel's version brings the ancient tale to life for modern readers. It balances fidelity to the original text with readability, making it a popular choice for students and scholars alike. The translation is often cited in MLA format for academic papers discussing Beowulf.

2. *The Art of Translating Beowulf: Burton Raffel's Approach*

This scholarly work examines Burton Raffel's translation techniques and his contributions to the understanding of Beowulf. It explores how Raffel navigates the challenges of translating Old English poetry into modern English verse. The book offers insights into his stylistic choices and their impact on the poem's interpretation.

3. *Beowulf and the Critics: Essays on Burton Raffel's Translation*

A collection of critical essays analyzing various aspects of Raffel's Beowulf translation. Topics include linguistic fidelity, cultural context, and the accessibility of the text. This volume is valuable for readers interested in the academic discourse surrounding Raffel's work and its place in Beowulf studies.

4. *Medieval Epics and Modern Voices: Burton Raffel's Beowulf in Context*

This book situates Raffel's translation within the broader tradition of medieval epic translations. It compares his work to other translators and discusses how his version reflects contemporary literary values. The text also considers the role of MLA citation standards in the dissemination of medieval literature.

5. *Teaching Beowulf: Burton Raffel's Translation in the Classroom*

Focused on pedagogical strategies, this guide helps educators incorporate Raffel's Beowulf into their curriculum. It includes lesson plans, discussion questions, and suggestions for MLA citation in student writing. The book highlights the translation's effectiveness in engaging students with Old English literature.

6. *From Old English to Modern English: Translating Beowulf with Burton Raffel*

This work explores the linguistic challenges of rendering Beowulf's Old English into contemporary English. It uses Raffel's translation as a case study, analyzing how language evolves and the translator's role in shaping meaning. The book also provides guidance on citing such translations in MLA format.

7. *Beowulf in Modern Scholarship: The Impact of Burton Raffel's Translation*
An academic study detailing how Raffel's translation has influenced modern Beowulf scholarship. It reviews various critical interpretations that have emerged since the publication of Raffel's version. The book also discusses proper MLA citation practices when referencing Raffel's work.

8. *Epic Poetry and Translation: Insights from Burton Raffel's Beowulf*
This book delves into the art of translating epic poetry, using Raffel's Beowulf as a primary example. It addresses issues such as meter, tone, and cultural nuances. The text is useful for translators, students, and scholars interested in the intersection of epic literature and translation theory.

9. *Citing Beowulf: A Guide to MLA Citation Using Burton Raffel's Translation*
A practical handbook focused on how to correctly cite Burton Raffel's Beowulf in MLA format. It covers in-text citations, works cited entries, and common pitfalls. This guide is especially helpful for students writing research papers on Beowulf or Old English literature.

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burton raffel beowulf mla citation: Beowulf , 1963

burton raffel beowulf mla citation: Beowulf Anonymous, 2015-09-26 This Squid Ink Classic edition of Beowulf includes the full text of the work plus MLA style citations for scholarly secondary sources, peer-reviewed journal articles and critical essays for when your teacher requires extra resources in MLA format for your research paper.

burton raffel beowulf mla citation: Beowulf Lewis Warsh, Lee Warsh, 1984 A guide to reading Beowulf with a critical and appreciative mind. Includes sample tests, term paper suggestions, and a reading list.

burton raffel beowulf mla citation: Beowulf , 1963

burton raffel beowulf mla citation: Gle Lit Beowulf Sg G12 01 Burton Raffel, Glencoe, 2000-10-01

burton raffel beowulf mla citation: The Translations of Beowulf Chauncey Brewster Tinker, 1903

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