

SCAND 340: *Kalevala*
Response Paper #1
Writing Prompts

Answer one of the questions below in a 2-3 page paper, typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Please examine the criteria for evaluation of writing laid out in the syllabus in drafting and editing your paper.

1. What “counsel” does the *Kalevala* offer, in Benjamin’s sense? Drawing on analysis of “The Storyteller” essay and a reading of a particular poem in the *Kalevala*, make an argument about the counsel offered by the *Kalevala*.
2. Who are the characters of the *Kalevala*? Choose one of the characters of the *Kalevala* as the focus of your analysis, and make an argument about what kind of character he or she is. Your paper should identify two or three key traits of the character, but also explain why you think those traits are significant to the *Kalevala*.
3. What is the Sampo? Drawing on one of the theories of the Sampo touched upon in class, use evidence from the *Kalevala* and other sources you may choose to present an argument that answers this age-old question.