

Grendel – Solo Work #1 - The Shaper, The Dragon, The Monster DO NOT DO BEFORE CLASS (YOU WILL BE GIVEN TIME IN CLASS TO DO THIS).

This is a very different kind of writing. The most important thing is for you to try and make connections – and for you to take notes on what you read. In essence, **you must not only supply the answer but you must supply the FOCUS and/or questions as well. You still also have your reading.**

Period 3 – Group A Last Name A-C

Group B Last Name D-K

Group C Last Name L-Z

Period 4 – Group A Last Name A-H

Group B Last Name I-P

Group C Last Name Q-Z

Period 6 – Group A Last Name A-C

Group B Last Name D-M

Group C Last Name N-Z

Period 7 – Group A Last Name A-F

Group B Last Name G-L

Group C Last Name M-Z

You will start your close reading of these quotes by concentrating on –

A: Box 1 to Box 2

B: Box 1 to Box 3

C: Box 2 to Box 3.

During the first 12 minutes you will cover the quotes with your notes, arrows, etc. (if you don't have a printer – take the notes on a separate sheet of paper): Everyone should look at “Autowreck (we read it together with the other poems before *Grendel*),” the **Batman, Shakespeare, and Arcadia** quotes, and the **epigraph from Grendel** that appears in the middle of your sheet. Time yourself to finish **at least** your boxes When you go over each of these boxes – consult you notes, your books, and your brain. **Write on this sheet – draw arrows between connections, highlight (remember if you highlight – write something down next to it as well), fill this paper with your comments.** Each box is centered on a certain theme or idea. If you finish your two boxes, the Shakespeare/Batman quotes, the epigraph & “Autowreck” then look at everything else on this sheet.

In the last 3 minutes - Write down what you come up with – What **BIG CONNECTIONS** do you see? Be specific – and reference the quotes (if it's easier -number your boxes)

Two Hints: HINT 1: Look at the epigraph – then look at the Batman quote – then think about the Dragon says when Grendel tells him that he wants to quit scaring humans. **HINT 2:** “Autowreck” – make sure you have an understanding of the **THESIS** (main point) of this poem (don't forget literal before figurative) Get out your poems – with their notes. Also: Grendel hates men because of their _____s. In Shapiro's poem – what does the poet say that an “autowreck” does to these _____s. (cool, eh?) This is just one hint – and should not define your group work.

Box 1

“The world is all pointless accident, I say.” -GRENDEL

“I knew what I knew, the mindless, mechanical brutality of things (see)” - GRENDEL

“Dragons don't mess with your piddling free will.” - DRAGON

Batman: Then why do you want to kill me?

The Joker: [laughs] I don't want to kill you! What would I do without you? Go back to ripping off mob dealers? No, no, you... you complete me.





Box 2

"the man [shaper] had changed the world, had torn up the past by its thick, gnarled roots and had transmuted it, and they, who knew the truth, remembered it his way" - GRENDEL

"I knew them...yet the things he said seemed true." - GRENDEL

"all he said was ridiculous, not light for their darkness but flattery, illusion..." - GRENDEL

"He [shaper] reshapes the world...and turns dry sticks to gold." - GRENDEL

"If the ideas of art were beautiful, that was art's fault, not the Shaper's" - GRENDEL

"and when the harper's lure drew my mind away to hopeful dreams, the dark of what was and always was reached out and snatched my feet." - GRENDEL

"You want to know about the Shaper./ I [Grendel] nodded/ Illusion."

"That's where the Shaper saves them." - DRAGON

"he [shaper] spins it all together with harp runs and hoots, and they think what they think is alive" - DRAGON

"there is nothing average about expression: it is essentially individual" - DRAGON

"My advice to you, my violent friend, is to seek out gold and sit on it" - DRAGON

"Life in itself/ Is nothing, / An empty cup, a flight of uncarpeted stairs. / It is not enough that yearly, down this hill, / April / Comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers" from "Spring" Edna St. Vincent Millay

*And if the Babe is born a Boy
He's given to a Woman Old,
Who nails him down upon a rock,
Catches his shrieks in cups of gold.*

---WILLIAM BLAKE

(the epigraph [quote before the book begins] from the novel Grendel)



Box 3

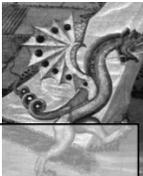
"Now you know how *they* feel when they see *you*, eh?" - DRAGON

"Why *not* frighten them?" DRAGON

"Why is it fiddlesticks if I stop giving people heart attacks over nothing? Why shouldn't one change one's ways, improve one's character?" (see) - GRENDEL

"You improve them, my boy! Can't you see that yourself? You stimulate them! You make them think and scheme. You drive them to poetry, science, religion, all that makes them what they are for as long as they last. You are, so to speak, the brute existent by which they learn to defend themselves... Scare him to glory!" (see) - DRAGON

"You are mankind" - DRAGON



autowreck by karl shapiro

Its quick soft silver bell beating, beating
And down the dark one ruby flare
Pulsing out red light like an artery
The ambulance at top speed floating down
Past beacons and illuminated clocks
Wings in a heavy curve, dips down,
And brakes speed, entering the crowd.
The doors leap open, emptying light;
Stretchers are laid out, the mangled lifted
And stowed into the little hospital.
Then the bell, breaking the hush, tolls once,
And the ambulance with its terrible cargo
Rocking, slightly rocking, moves away,
As the doors, an afterthought, are closed.

We are deranged, walking among the cops
Who sweep glass and are large and composed.
One is still making notes under the light.
One with a bucket douches ponds of blood
Into the street and gutter
One hangs lanterns on the wrecks that cling,
Empty husks of locusts, to iron poles

"It's *wanting* to know that makes us matter. Otherwise we're going out the way we came in... Believe in God, the soul, the spirit, the infinite, believe in angels if you like, but not in the great celestial get-together for an exchange of views. If the answers are in the back of the book I can wait, but what a drag. Better to struggle on knowing that failure is final." Tom Stoppard -Arcadia



(autowreck continued)

Our throats were tight as tourniquets,
Our feet were bound with splints, but now,
Like convalescents intimate and gauche,
We speak through sickly smiles and warn
With the stubborn saw of common sense,
The grim joke and the banal resolution.
The traffic moves around with care,
But we remain, touching a wound
That opens to our richest horror.

Already old, the question Who shall die?
Becomes unspoken Who is innocent?
For death in war is done by hands;
Suicide has cause and stillbirth, logic.
But this invites the occult mind,
Cancels our physics with a sneer,
And spatters all we knew of denouement
Across the expedient and wicked stones.

Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

William Shakespeare *Macbeth*

