

## **Grendel Chapter 7**

**Directions:** Read the summaries for the zodiac sign and philosophy (below). Read chapter 7 of Grendel. Answer the questions. When finished place document in your Grendel folder.

### **Zodiac Sign: Libra**

Dates: September 23- October 22 (Fall)

Element: Air

Ruling Planet: Venus (the planet of beauty and love)

Symbol: The Scales

Stone: Opal

Life Pursuit: to love and be loved

Desire: to live an easy uncomplicated life

Symbolized by the Scales, Libra epitomizes balance and fairness. This sign's influence helps restore equilibrium to all affairs, no matter how big or small. From settling a major legal or ethical conflict to determining the best place to hang a painting, Libra energy will stop at nothing to establish interpersonal and aesthetic consonance. Under a Libra planetary transit, they can regain their footing in relationships and seek more balance in our lives. The essence of Libra energy is charming, lovable, fair, sincere, sharing, beautiful and hopelessly romantic. Negative expressions of Libra energy can be vain, indecisive, melodramatic, manipulative, spoiled and delusional. Libra energy enhances social graces and turns attention to beauty and style. In Italy, there's an expression known as *la bella figura*, in which Italian natives not only dress to impress but also exhibit their brightest, best personalities when in the company of others. Libra transits helps achieve that kind of inner and outer beauty, creating feelings of being the fairest of them all.

### **Philosophy: New Testament Theology**

In "The Twelve Chapters of Grendel," Craig J. Stromme argues that Grendel is skeptic in chapter six and chapter seven, and Wealthow is the closest thing the audience sees to a Christian in Grendel. Whereas in chapter four the Shaper brought the Old Testament to the village, Wealthow brings the New Testament ideals with her in chapter seven. According to Stromme, at the center of the novel, we have the two contrasting ways of viewing the world: Grendel's belief in chaos and futility balanced by Wealthow's belief in order and purpose.

New Testament theology explores the revelations of the Judeo-Christian God in the New Testament. Gardner will explore three of these concepts: the birth of the new church, the coming of the messiah, and some of the gospels of Christ. Simply stated, the birth of the new church is a movement from the church of the Old Testament to the new ideologies presented by the New Testament. Besides the gospels of Christ, writers of the New Testament add to these ideologies.

The major event of the New Testament is the life and death of Christ. Christ is viewed as the messiah, the savior for Jewish nation prophesied in the Old Testament. The messiah is symbolic of a new life (i.e., the acceptance of Christ is to be "born again"). Through a series of teachings, both sermons and parables, Christ establishes the ideologies of the new church during his life. St. Paul, a major contributor to the new testament, adds that a person is a living body, this body is lost without God (1 Corinthians) and further

develops this idea by stating that a person can choose to be faithful or unfaithful (1 Corinthians). St. Paul believed that man and God are at odds, as God is righteous, and man is not (Romans). The crucifixion of Christ is viewed as the ultimate sacrifice. According to St. John, the spirit is the spirit of Christ given to the community for its benefit, Christ is the ultimate sacrifice (John). St. John will further state that God requires mercy, not an animal sacrifice, when one loves God and neighbor then one does everything required of God (John).

Major Judeo-Christian symbols are presented in the New Testament. With the crucifixion of Christ, the cross becomes a central symbol. A series of numbers are also repeated throughout the New Testament. A few of those numbers, with some examples, are three (the trinity, number of times Peter was asked about Christ after the crucifixion, number of temptations), six (number of points on a cross, number of times Christ is accused as being evil, number of days Mary anointed Christ feet prior to passover), and twelve (number of apostles, number of gates in the Kingdom of God, number of angels guarding those gates).

### **Questions:**

1. In bullet points, list the key events and characters in this chapter:

1. In this chapter who do you believe makes the ultimate sacrifice? Why?

1. Zodiac Connection. How does Gardner allude to the zodiac sign Libra? List three examples:

1. Philosophy Connection. How does Gardner allude to the New Testament? List five examples:

