

Grendel Chapter 5: Warren (adapted from Hererra)

This chapter is confusing! I had to read it twice. So slow down and try to get what you can... Just like Grendel tries to do.

Directions: Read the summaries for the zodiac sign and philosophy. Read chapter 5 of Grendel. Answer the questions. When finished place document in your Grendel folder.

Zodiac Sign: Leo

Dates: July 23 - August 22 (Summer)

Element: Fire

Ruling Planet: Sun (symbol of knowledge)

Symbol: The Lion

Stone: Peridot

Life Pursuit: to lead the way

Desire: to rule the world

Ruled by the proud and fierce Lion, Leo energy is expressive and flamboyant in nature. It makes them fiercely protective of their passion projects and their loved ones. Leo is inspired to lead from the heart and wear their emotions on their sleeves. Under a Leo planetary transit, they can get swept away in their personal theatrics and romantic affairs, fully opening themselves to the splendor of their desires and self-expression. The essence of Leo energy is courageous, kind, generous, loyal, protective, nakedly honest and entertaining. Negative manifestations of Leo energy can be arrogant, greedy, sloppy, coldhearted, jealous, aggressive and vain. Leo energy can cause them to upstage those around them, forgetting that each and every person is a valuable member to a team. Leo has a flair for powerful leadership. Leo's energy can leave others awakened and revitalized in an empowering way.

Philosophy: Nihilism, Alfred N. Whitehead, and Limited Understanding

Nihilism is the belief that all values are baseless and that nothing can be known or communicated. It is often associated with extreme pessimism and a radical skepticism that condemns existence. A true nihilist would believe in nothing, have no loyalties, and no purpose other than, perhaps, an impulse to destroy. While few philosophers would claim to be nihilists, nihilism is most often associated with Friedrich Nietzsche who argued that its corrosive effects would eventually destroy all moral, religious, and metaphysical convictions and precipitate the greatest crisis in human history.

It has been over a century now since Nietzsche explored nihilism and its implications for civilization. As he predicted, nihilism's impact on the culture and values of the 20th century has been pervasive, its apocalyptic tenor spawning a mood of gloom and a good deal of anxiety, anger, and terror. Interestingly, Nietzsche himself, a radical skeptic preoccupied with language, knowledge, and truth, anticipated many of the themes of postmodernity. It's helpful to note, then, that he believed we could--at a terrible price--eventually work through nihilism. If we survived the process of destroying all interpretations of the world, we could then perhaps discover the correct course for humankind.

Questions:

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

2. In the epic poem "Beowulf," Beowulf kills the Dragon. The Dragon claims to see the future. If this claim is true, does he know his own fate? Explain and support your answer with text ("Things come and go...these too will go." This text may help you. Find it).

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

4. Philosophy Connection: How does Gardner allude to Nihilism? List three examples:

5. In your opinion, what do you think Grendel comes away with (philosophically) after his visit to the Dragon?

