

Name: _____

Beowulf Reading Guide

Grendel _____

Hrothgar _____

Herot _____

Geatland _____

She-Wolf _____

The Wrath of Grendel

1. Why does Grendel hold a grudge with the people of Herot?
2. *Which literary device is used in lines 20 & 21.
3. *What does the conflict between the Danes and Grendel symbolize?
4. How many years did Grendel attack Herot?
5. Which literary device is used in lines 74 & 79?
6. *Why is Hrothgar's throne safe from danger? What deeper meaning can we take from this?

The Coming of Beowulf

7. How does Beowulf immediately show traits of the epic hero?
8. What is Beowulf's plan to kill Grendel?

The Battle with Grendel

9. Which literary device is used in line 309?
10. What problem do Beowulf's men encounter in lines 371-378?
11. How does Beowulf destroy Grendel?
12. What does Beowulf hang in the rafters?

The Battle with Grendel's Mother

13. *What might Beowulf's journey to the she-wolf's lair symbolize?
14. How does Beowulf defeat Grendel's mother?

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15. What kind of irony is displayed in lines 568-570?

The Last Battle

16. Why does Beowulf decree that he'll fight the dragon alone?

17. If Beowulf stated that he would fight the dragon alone, why does Wiglaf stay to help?

18. According to Wiglaf, what is much more acceptable than cowardice?

The Farewell

19. What does Beowulf ask of Wiglaf as he prepares to die?

20. *What does the hero's death mean to his people?

Reflection - Think about the following questions as they relate to the final paper writing prompt. Provide examples, direct quotes, arguments, and perspective on these questions.

- Consider how protagonists are viewed by Anglo-Saxon culture. What positive characteristics do they have? What negative characteristics (if any). What are the societal expectations of protagonists? How is success gauged in this culture? Are these heroes related to the everyday person?

Positive Traits: _____

Negative Traits (if any): _____

Societal Expectations: _____

How success is gauged: _____

Relatability to ordinary person rank (1),(2),(3),(4),(5) Why: _____

- Consider what the story of Beowulf tells us about the morals and values of Anglo-Saxon culture as well as the fears and uncertainties of this time period. Consider societal norms and the impact of religious views.

Morals & Values of Anglo-Saxons: _____

Fears and uncertainties: _____

Societal norms & religious views: _____

Name: _____

- There is little talk of women in Beowulf, however, this does tell us about the cultural views of the genders in Anglo Saxon society

How men are portrayed: _____

How women are portrayed: _____

Societal views on masculinity: _____

Societal views on femininity: _____

Challenges/restrictions of being male in society: _____

Challenges/restrictions of being female in society: _____

- There are 3 antagonists in this story of Beowulf (Grendel, G's mother, & the dragon). Consider how these antagonists are described, what they do, and how Anglo-Saxon culture viewed antagonists.

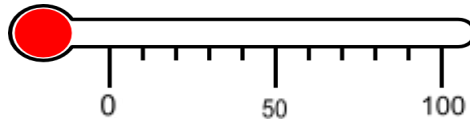
Antagonist description: _____

Antagonist actions: _____

Anglo-Saxon view: _____

Relatability to ordinary person rank (1).(2).(3).(4).(5) Why: _____

Degree of villainy/evilness



Why: _____
