

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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- 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 (Grendal, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

