

Grendel Chapter 3

Directions: Read the summaries for the zodiac sign and philosophy. Read chapter 3 of Grendel. Answer the questions. When finished be sure to print and keep with your other chapter questions / guides.

Zodiac Sign: Gemini

Dates: May 21- June 20 (Spring)

Element: Air

Ruling Planet: Mercury (god of communication)

Symbol: The Twins

Stone: Aquamarine

Life Pursuit: exploration

Desire: to have all the answers

Ruled by the dual sign of the twins (Castor and Pollux), Gemini energy circulates in a quick and frenetic way. Gemini rules communication and this sign inspires witty word plays and dynamic dialogue. Gemini transits are great for brainstorming and socializing. This sign also craves “twin flame” and kindred spirit energy, and is always up for an intellectual meeting of the minds. Under the influence of a Gemini planetary transit, they find themselves with the gift of gab, talking and conversing with others for hours hopping from pop culture trends to deep political topics. Gemini can crank up the rumor mill. The essence of Gemini energy is fascinating, original, resourceful, charming, wise, and adventurous. The negative manifestation can devolve into restless, distracted, two-faced, judgmental, depressed, and overwhelmed energy. Gemini has a tendency to ride the roller coaster of life, spiraling skywards one minute and plunging into lows the next.

Philosophy: The Sophist

The Sophists were orators, public speakers, mouths for hire in an oral culture. They were gifted with speech. They were skilled in what becomes known as Rhetoric. They were respected, feared and hated. They had a gift and used it in a manner that aroused the ire of many. They challenged, questioned and were unconcerned with creating valid answers. They cared about winning public speaking contests, debates, and lawsuits and in charging fees to teach others how to do as they did. To be able to speak well meant a great deal at that time. As there was no real paper available, there were no written contracts or deeds and disputes that would be settled today with a set of documents as evidence back then they would need to be settled through a contest of words: one person's words against another's. Whoever presented the best oral case would often prevail. To speak well was very important. The Sophists were very good speakers. Indeed, they

had reputations for being able to convince a crowd that up was down, that day was night, that the wrong answer could be the right answer, that good was bad and bad is good, even that injustice is justice and justice would be made to appear as injustice!

To support one's position in any matter, nothing better could be offered than a quotation from one of the works, which told of the gods and their actions. Therefore, those who were the fastest and most accurate at being able to locate quotations and take them and apply them to a given situation would often win the debate, the contest, the lawsuit or discussion. The Sophists were well versed in the epic tales and poems. They were able to find the most appropriate quotation to support any position. They regularly entered contests and those who won were given prizes, but no prize was greater than being the victor and able to charge the highest rates of tuition to instruct the sons of the wealthy in how to speak in public.

The Sophists held no values other than winning and succeeding. They were not true believers in the myths of the Greeks but would use references and quotations from the tales for their own purposes. They were secular atheists, relativists and cynical about religious beliefs and all traditions.

Their concerns were not with truth but with practical knowledge. They practiced rhetoric in order to persuade and not to discover truth. Their art was to persuade the crowd and not to convince people of the truth.

Questions:

1. In bullet points, list the key events and characters in this chapter:
2. Who is Grendel's "figurative" twin in this chapter? Why?
3. Zodiac Connection. How does Gardner allude to the zodiac sign Gemini? List five examples:
4. Explain how the Shaper is a Sophist.

