

Beowulf –the homework on the epic poem is quite large, but so is the poem! The first set of questions is mainly factual – they are intended to guide you through your reading. The last 3 questions, however, are intended to make you think. Please give thorough, well-reasoned answers to them.

In the history of the king Shield, how is he buried?

What is “herot”?

What is *Beowulf*'s explanation of the origin of monsters?

How many years does Grendel go on killing Hrothgar's men?

How does Beowulf get to Hrothgar's court?

What is Hrothgar's initial reaction to Beowulf's arrival?

Describe the armor that Beowulf and his fellow warriors wear.

When Wulfgar greets Beowulf and friends at the door, what does he tell them to leave outside?

What weapons does Beowulf intend to use in fighting Grendel?

What is the court's reaction to the exchange between Beowulf and Unferth?

When does Grendel first realize that he's in trouble?

Why can't the warriors hurt Grendel?

What does Beowulf do with Grendel's arm?

What does Beowulf receive as a reward for his valor?

Who shows up to avenge Grendel's death?

Where must Beowulf go to fight this new threat?

What 2 items does he bring back from the fight?

What is written on the handle of the sword when Hrothgar examines it?

Where does the dragon's hoard originate?

What makes the dragon angry?

How does Beowulf intend to withstand the dragon's fire?

Do Beowulf's warriors come to help him in the fight?

How does Beowulf die?

- *Discuss the descriptions of the monsters. What information is given/not given? What impression did you have? How did you picture them, and why did you picture them that way?*
- *Significant/ symbolic numbers play a BIG part in Beowulf. Choose at least 2 examples of those numbers and explain their significance.*
- *What makes Beowulf such a hero? Is it just the fact that he wins? Is it something in his character or behavior? Justify Beowulf as a hero.*