

Beowulf

Part One Questions

Responding

1. Explain how Beowulf compares to other heroes.
2. Explain how Grendel compares to other villains.

Recalling

3. When does Grendel first go to Herot?
4. What are Hrothgar's warriors doing when he arrives?
5. Why does Grendel attack? Explain what Grendel does to the warriors.
6. How many years has Grendel attacked Hrothgar's people?
7. Why does Beowulf, a Geat, journey across the sea to the land of the Danes?
8. What is Beowulf's plan for fighting Grendel? Why does he choose this plan?
9. How does Grendel die?

Interpreting

10. At the beginning of the poem, Hrothgar's warriors are happy, whereas Grendel is consumed by hatred. What causes these differences?

11. How does Beowulf's remark, "Fate will unwind as it must," reflect the Anglo-Saxons' attitude toward fate?

12. What traits of Beowulf and Grendel raise the fight between them to an epic struggle between the two opposing forces in the world?

13. Why does Beowulf hang Grendel's arm from the rafters of Herot?

14. After examining Beowulf's boast (lines 141-189 online version), explain how he exemplifies the attributes of an Anglo-Saxon hero.

15. Beowulf, the first superhero according to one insightful and intellectual English teacher, is thought to be the perfect hero for his time. How does he resemble a modern hero?

Applying

16. List three examples of kennings and explain what they mean.

17. How does Beowulf demonstrate his loyalty to his lord and king?

18. When does Grendel realize he has been beaten?