

Text: *Beowulf*

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Due: Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Part I: *Beowulf* Plot and Characters.

**Multiple Choice:** Select the option that best answers the question or completes the sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ How long are King Hrothgar's people attacked before Beowulf arrives?  
A. 4 weeks      B. 10 seasons      C. 12 winters      D. 20 years
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Why does Beowulf journey to Herot Hall?  
A. To escape from enemies      C. to claim Hrothgar's throne  
B. To settle an old family feud      D. To cleanse it with a heroic deed
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following **best** characterizes Beowulf's reception by Hrothgar and Hrothgar's warriors?  
A. They are suspicious of his intentions and test his loyalty by interrogating him.  
B. They are embarrassed by their inability to defeat Grendel and willing to pay Beowulf with gold and treasure for him and his men to help them.  
C. They are proud and reject Beowulf's willingness to help.  
D. They are indifferent; Beowulf could have remained at home for all they care.
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ When Beowulf requests that he alone "May purge all evil from this hall," what does he mean by **purge**?  
A. Drive out and condemn  
B. Overcome and conquer  
C. Cleanse and purify  
D. Bury and forget
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Unferth accuses Beowulf of  
A. foolishly risking his own life (Beowulf's) and Brecca's life in a swimming match.  
B. murdering his own brother.  
C. losing the swimming match to Brecca.  
D. A and C
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Which phrase best paraphrases the underlined words in this quotation from *Beowulf*?  
". . . they could hack at Grendel / From every side, trying to open / A path for his evil soul, but their points / Could not hurt him."

  - A. To kill him
  - B. To drive him out of the hall
  - C. To speak to him in a séance
  - D. To help him escape

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Grendel couldn't harm Hrothgar's throne because
- A. it was protected by God.
  - B. it was built by Giants.
  - C. it was guarded.
  - D. he couldn't reach it.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ How does Beowulf manage to kill Grendel?
- A. Through hand-to-hand combat.
  - B. By using a magic sword.
  - C. By drowning.
  - D. By exhausting, then stabbing him.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Grendel's arm is in the banquet hall of the Danes. How can this symbol be interpreted?
- A. It is a warning against pagan practices.
  - B. It is a sign of Beowulf's dominance and strength
  - C. It is a reminder of the evil that still lurks on Britannia.
  - D. It is an homage to the Anglo-Saxons home country.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ In response to her son's death, Grendel's mother kills Hrothgar's best friend and
- A. Carries off Grendel's arm to her lair
  - B. Steals Welthow's favorite dog
  - C. Burns Beowulf's treasure
  - D. Sets fire to Herot
11. \_\_\_\_\_ What protects Beowulf from being injured or killed by Grendel's mother's sword?
- A. A shield
  - B. His fellow warriors
  - C. A needlefish
  - D. His chain mail shirt
12. \_\_\_\_\_ In his final battle, Beowulf faces a dragon. Which of these adjectives best fits the image of the dragon's demeanor in this quotation?  
“... *The dragon / Coiled and uncoiled, its heart urging it / Into battle . . .*”
- A. Complacent
  - B. Eager
  - C. Timid
  - D. Contemplative
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Wiglaf thinks he and his comrades should help Beowulf fight the dragon because
- A. it will increase Beowulf's chance of victory.
  - B. then Beowulf's comrades can claim the monster's treasure.
  - C. they had promised to demonstrate kinship and repay Beowulf's kindness with their lives.
  - D. Beowulf is too old and sick to fight.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ When the dying Beowulf gives Wiglaf his gold necklace, the gesture means that
- A. Beowulf has captured the monster's treasure.
  - B. Beowulf wants Wiglaf to kill his comrades.
  - C. Beowulf recognizes Wiglaf's superior strength in battle.
  - D. Beowulf is passing the rule to Wiglaf.

15. \_\_\_\_\_ The dragon's treasure was  
A. never found.  
B. thrown in the sea.  
C. buried with Beowulf.  
D. given to Higlac.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ What is Beowulf's dying wish?  
A. To have the Geats build a tomb on the water's edge  
B. To be cremated  
C. To create a tower called "Beowulf's tower"  
D. All of the above
17. \_\_\_\_\_ What is the tone at the end of the epic?  
A. Joyful and exuberant  
B. Somber and mournful  
C. Angry and accusatory  
D. Humorous and entertaining

## Part II: Rhetoric and Rhetorical Devices.

**Multiple Choice:** Select the option that best answers the question or completes the sentence.

18. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following lines from Beowulf contains an example of **kenning**?  
A. "Higlac is my cousin and my king; the days / Of my youth have been filled with glory."  
B. "Their guide reined in his horse, pointing / To that hall, built by Hrothgar for the best..."  
C. "The high hall rang, its sky-boards swayed, / And Danes shook with terror."  
D. "The music rang / Loud in that hall, the harp's rejoicing"
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following **allusions** does the poet make in reference to Grendel?  
A. Reference to the Anglo-Saxons  
B. Biblical story of Cain & Abel  
C. Julius Caesar  
D. Reference to History of the English Speaking People
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following lines from Beowulf's battle with Grendel's mother contains a **caesura**?  
A. "Tried to work her fingers through the tight/ ring-woven mail shirt"  
B. "[he] swung his sword,/ His ring-marked blade;"  
C. "Squatting with her weight on his stomach, she drew/ a dagger"  
D. "[she] bit holes in his helmet,/ and that too failed"
21. \_\_\_\_\_ All of the following **kennings** are used to describe King Hrothgar EXCEPT  
A. Shelterer of warriors  
B. People-loved friend  
C. Shepherd of evil  
D. Ring-giver

22. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following rhetorical devices is NOT displayed in this passage?  
“*When we crossed the sea, my comrades*

*And I, I already knew that all*

*My purpose was this: to win the good will*

*Of your people or die in battle, pressed*

*In Grendel’s fierce grip. Let me live in greatness*

*And courage, or here in this hall welcome*

*My death!”*

- A. Caesura
- B. Consonance
- C. Kenning
- D. Juxtaposition

23. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following rhetorical devices is NOT displayed in this passage?  
“*The high hall rang, its roof boards swayed,*

*And Danes shook with terror. Down*

*The aisles the battle swept, angry*

*And wild. Herot trembled, wonderfully*

*Built to withstand the blows, the struggling*

*Great bodies beating at its beautiful walls;”*

- A. Consonance
- B. Caesura
- C. Symbolism
- D. Litote

24. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following rhetorical devices is NOT displayed in this passage?  
“*...the sharpest and hardest iron*

*Could not scratch at his skin, for that sin-stained demon*

*Had bewitched all men’s weapons, laid spells*

*That blunted every mortal man’s blade.*

*And yet his time had come, his days*

*Were over, his death near; down*

*To hell he would go, swept groaning and helpless*

*To the waiting hands of still worse fiends.*

*Now he discovered—once the afflictor*

*Of men, tormentor of their days—what it meant*

*To feud with Almighty God."*

- A. Caesura      B. Metonymy      C. Kenning      D. Allusion
25. \_\_\_\_\_ When used to describe Beowulf, the phrase "prime protector of all portals" is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. Synecdoche      B. Metonymy      C. Alliteration      D. Litote
26. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following Anglo-Saxon conventions is illustrated in this excerpted exchange?

**Unferth:** "*You've been lucky in your battles, Beowulf, but I think your luck may change if you challenge Grendel.*"

**Beowulf:** "*Lucky or not, nine was the number of sea-huge monsters I killed. What man, anywhere under Heaven's high arch, has fought in such darkness?*"

- A. Flyting  
 B. Formal Boast  
 C. Kenning  
 D. All of the above

### Part III: The Rhetorical Situation.

**Multiple Choice:** Read each short excerpt, considering the context in the epic poem, and then answer the questions that follow. Select the option that best answers the question or completes the sentence.

#### Passage #1:

"...your face

*Is hot with ale, and your tongue has tried  
 To tell us about Brecca's doings. But the truth  
 Is simple: No man swims in the sea  
 As I can."*

27. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the **Speaker**?  
 A. Hrothgar      B. Unferth      C. Beowulf      D. One of the Danes
28. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the **Audience**? (*Hint: think who else is listening to this...*)  
 A. Unferth      B. Beowulf      C. Hrothgar and his men      D. A and C
29. \_\_\_\_\_ What is the speaker's **purpose**?  
 A. To use a formal boast to assert his superiority  
 B. To scare the audience  
 C. To convince the audience to like him  
 D. To persuade Brecca to concede his loss

**Passage #2:**

*"I was new to the throne,  
Then, a young man ruling this wide  
Kingdom and its golden city: Hergar,  
My older brother, a far better man  
than I, had died and dying made me,  
Second among Healfdane's sons, first  
In this nation. I bought the end of Edgetho's  
Quarrel, sent ancient treasures through the ocean's  
Furrows to the Wulfings, your father swore  
he'd keep the peace. "*

30. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the **Speaker**?

- A. Hrothgar      B. Higlac      C. Beowulf      D. Unferth

31. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the **Audience**?

- A. Hrothgar      B. Higlac      C. Beowulf      D. Unferth

32. \_\_\_\_\_ What is the speaker's **Purpose**?

- A. To remind the audience of his past good deeds and debts owed  
B. To memorialize his brother Hergar  
C. To criticize the wars of neighboring tribes  
D. To challenge anyone who breaks the peace

**Passage #3:**

*"I remember how we sat in the mead hall, drinking  
And boasting of how brave we'd be when Beowulf  
Needed us, he who gave us these swords  
And armor...  
He allowed us to join him, chose us from all his great army...  
And now our lord must lean on younger  
Arms. And we must go to him...  
Who are we to carry home our shields before we've slain his enemy and ours?"*

33. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the **Speaker**?

- A. Unferth      B. Wiglaf      C. Hrothgar      D. Grendel
34. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the **Audience**?  
A. The Danes      B. The Geats      C. Hrothgar      D. Unferth
35. \_\_\_\_\_ What is the speaker's **Purpose**?  
A. To criticize his fellow men for inaction  
B. To celebrate Beowulf's bravery  
C. To persuade his comrades to support Beowulf in his fight  
D. To apologize for poor leadership
36. \_\_\_\_\_ Which **rhetorical device** is used in this passage?  
A. Juxtaposition      B. Assonance      C. Pathos      D. All of the above

**Passage #4:**

*"Make this best of all mead-halls yours, and then*

*Keep it free of evil, fight*

*With glory in your heart! Purge Herot*

*And your ship will sail home with its treasure-holds full."*

37. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the **Speaker**?  
A. Beowulf      B. Unferth      C. Hrothgar      D. Welthow
38. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the **Audience**?  
A. Beowulf      B. Unferth      C. Hrothgar      D. Welthow
39. \_\_\_\_\_ What is the **Subject** in this excerpt?  
A. Eliminating the threats from Grendel  
B. Eradicating pagan practices  
C. Encouraging men to set sail and return home  
D. Bestowing honor on the next king
40. \_\_\_\_\_ Which **rhetorical device** is used in this passage?  
A. Logos  
B. Ethos  
C. Pathos  
D. None of the above

June 6, 2021

Summer Reading Assignment

English IV