

Text: *Beowulf*

Translator: Burton Raffel

Due: Wednesday, August 11th, 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

