

**Beowulf**  
**pp. 21 – 37**

**\*\*Answer the following questions on your own paper!**

**The Monster Grendel**

**Section 1**

1. How are Grendel and the Danes contrasted?

Descriptions of Grendel	Descriptions of the Danes

2. What are some examples of Christian influence in the first section?

3. List three examples of strong alliteration with line numbers.

4. Who is the Danish king?

5. Why is Grendel angry with the Danes?

**Section 2**

5. What was the name of Hrothgar's mead hall?

6. What are the men doing when Grendel arrives?

7. How many men does Grendel kill during his first visit?

8. How do Hrothgar's men respond to Grendel's attacks?

9. How long does Herot remain empty?

10. How does Grendel violate the Anglo Saxon custom of wergild?

11. List two examples of kenning with line numbers.

12. Describe how pagan and Christian views are interlaced in the section.

Examples of Pagan influence	Examples of Christian influence

**Section 3**

13. What qualities of an epic hero does Beowulf demonstrate?

14. How many men does Beowulf bring with him to Denmark?

**The Arrival of the Hero**

**Section 4**

15. Who is sent to greet Beowulf and his men?

16. What evidence is there that Beowulf has already begun to be glorified?

17. Based on Beowulf's long speech on pp. 25-26, how would you describe the hero so far? List at least four characteristics with specific evidence from the text to support each.

18. Give an example of a pagan and of a Christian influence in this section.

**Section 5**

19. When Hrothgar responds to Beowulf, what motivations might he have for his speech? Give evidence.

20. How does Hrothgar's speech reflect Anglo-Saxon values? Give evidence.

21. What does Hrothgar propose at the end of his speech?

**Unferth's Challenge**

**Section 6**

22. Who is Unferth?

23. What is Unferth's motivation for challenging Beowulf?
24. How does Unferth try to discredit Beowulf?
25. How does Beowulf respond? How does his response demonstrate heroic qualities?
26. What example of his superior strength does Beowulf give?

#### Section 7

27. What is Beowulf's tone at the beginning of this section? What evidence supports this?
- 28 (a). Why does Beowulf say Unferth will "suffer hell's fires"?
- 28 (b). Thinking of the Anglo Saxon concept of wergild, how is Unferth's offense especially damnable?
29. Who is Welthow? How is she portrayed? Give details to support your answer.
30. What promise does Hrothgar make to Beowulf at the end of the section? What Anglo Saxon concept does this demonstrate?
31. List the examples of kenning in the following lines:  
301:  
302:  
341:
32. Find an example of a pagan influence and include line numbers.
33. Find an example of a Christian influence and included line numbers.

### **The Battle with Grendel**

#### Section 8

34. How is Grendel's fate foreshadowed at the beginning of the section?
35. Why do you think Beowulf allows Grendel to slaughter one of the Geats before taking action himself?
36. What kennings associate Grendel with evil? (Include line numbers.)

#### Section 9

37. How is comitatus demonstrated at the beginning of this section?
38. Why are Beowulf's men's swords useless against Grendel?
39. What trophy does Beowulf hang in the mead hall?
40. Find examples of Christian and pagan influences and include line numbers.

#### Section 10

41. How is the lake in which Grendel lies described? To what does this description parallel?
42. How is loyalty demonstrated at the end of this section?

#### Section 11

43. What imagery in the description of Grendel's lair associates Grendel with death and darkness?
44. How does the text say a deer or stag responds to the waters where Grendel lives?
45. How is comitatus demonstrated at the end of this section?