








Four Characteristics of an Epic Hero

“Beowulf, like all epic heroes, has superior physical strength and is supremely ethical. In his quest, he must defeat monsters that embody dark, destructive powers. At the end of the quest, he is glorified by the people he has saved.” –*Elements of Literature*, Sixth Course, p. 20

You might find it easy to remember the characteristics of the epic hero by using the acronym GOES, as in “Beowulf GOES to fight Grendel without being asked.” **G**lorified, **O**n a quest, **E**thical, **S**trong.

<p>Strong</p> 	<p>Ethical</p> 
<p>Quest</p> 	<p>Glorified</p> 

How does Beowulf fulfill the Anglo-Saxon Earthly Virtues: **B**ravery, **L**oyalty, **G**enerosity, **F**riendship (mnemonic: **Brit Lit is Good Fun.**)

<p>Bravery</p> 	<p>Loyalty</p> 
<p>Generosity</p> 	<p>Friendship</p> 