

Name: _____
Honors English 12

Date: _____
Period: _____

"THE BATTLE WITH GRENDEL" AND "GRENDEL'S MOTHER"

1.1.12.D: Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on a variety of grade level texts to support understanding of a variety of literary works from different cultures and literary movements.

1.2.12.A: Evaluate and critique text organization and content to determine the author's purpose and effectiveness according to the theses, accuracy, thoroughness, logic, and reasoning

1.3.12.C: Analyze the effectiveness of literary elements used by authors in various genres.

"The Battle with Grendel" After the banquet, Hrothgar and his followers leave Herot and Beowulf and his warriors remain to spend the night. Beowulf reiterates his intent to fight Grendel without a sword and, while his followers sleep, lies waiting, eager for Grendel to appear.

1. Lines 1-3 How does the rhythm created by the midline punctuation reinforce the account of the action here?
2. Lines 46-58 Why might Grendel be trying to run away from Beowulf?
3. Lines 91-96 Why do you think no weapons can hurt Grendel?
4. Lines 124-127 Why do you think Beowulf hangs Grendel's arm from the rafters?

"Grendel's Mother" (read page 23 until line 28 "Both had lost!") Although one monster has died, another still lives. From her lair in a cold and murky lake, where she has been brooding over her loss, Grendel's mother emerges, bent on revenge.

1. Line 25 – Why do you think Grendel’s mother takes his claw?

Devastated by the loss of his friend, Hrothgar sends for Beowulf and recounts what Grendel’s mother has done. Then Hrothgar describes the dark lake where Grendel’s mother has dwelt with her son.

"They live in secret places, windy
Cliffs, wolf-dens where water pours
From the rocks, then runs underground, where mist
Steams like black clouds, and the groves of trees
Growing out over their lake are all covered
With frozen spray, and wind down snakelike
Roots that reach as far as the water
And help keep it dark. At night that lake
Burns like a torch. No one knows its bottom,
No wisdom reaches such depths. A deer,
Hunted through the woods by packs of hounds,
A stag with great horns, though driven through the forest
From faraway places, prefers to die

On those shores, refuses to save its life
In that water. It isn't far, nor is it
A pleasant spot! When the wind stirs
And storms, waves splash toward the sky,
As dark as the air, as black as the rain
That the heavens weep. Our only help,
Again, lies with you Grendel's mother
Is hidden in her terrible home, in a place
You've not seen. Seek it, if you dare! Save us,
Once more, and again twisted gold,
Heaped-up ancient treasure, will reward you
For the battle you win!

2. What sort of place is the underwater lair of Grendel’s mother? How does the translator’s use of alliteration make this description more effective?
3. Make a prediction. What will Beowulf’s response be to Hrothgar’s challenge at the end of the passage? How do you know?

Extension Activity: What monsters do we have in today’s world? Do you believe Grendel was a real monster in the epic story of *Beowulf*? If not, why would the writer include a fictional monster in this story?