**Beowulf**

(Part 1-8)

1. What phrase points to Grendel’s evil nature?
2. What does Grendel do at night?
3. Why do none of Hrothgar’s men challenge Grendel?
4. Why does Grendel not touch Hrothgar’s throne?
5. Why is there background information about Grendel and Hrothgar in the poem?
6. How has Beowulf already begun to be glorified?
7. Why do you think Beowulf intends to fight Grendel with a sword?
8. What do think the purpose of Part 4 is?
9. What causes Hrothgar to make this speech, reminding Beowulf of the time he helped Beowulf’s father?
10. Find examples of alliteration and a kenning in the lines 211-118.
11. What is Unferth’s motive for challenging Beowulf?
12. How does Unferth’s challenge build suspense?
13. What is the tone of lines 268-277? Identify the grammatical construction that allows the reader to feel like a person is actually speaking.
14. In what ways does Beowulf compare his defeat of the sea monster to a feast?
15. “Fate saves the living when they drive away death by themselves.” Do you agree with Beowulf?
16. How does Unferth serve as a foil to Beowulf?
17. In lines 340-344 what is the kenning and what does it mean?
18. How is the coming of night personified?
19. What does Hrothgar promise? Why do you think he does this?
20. What is line 397 an example of? Think literary terms.
21. Why do you think Beowulf allows Grendel to slaughter one of the Gates before taking action himself?
22. What does *shepherd of evil* mean?
23. Beowulf has pledged to kill Grendel with his bare hands. What verbs are used to emphasize this?

**Beowulf**

(Part 9-17)

1. Why does Beowulf hang Grendel’s arm from the rafters of Herot? What effect do you think seeing the arm would have on viewers?
2. How is the lake where Grendel lies suggestive of hell?
3. What imagery of Grendel’s lair associates Grendel with death and darkness?
4. What characteristics of an Epic hero does Beowulf display during his fight with Grendel’s mother?
5. Why does Beowulf keep fighting even when the odds are against him?
6. Has Beowulf remained an epic hero? Why or why not?
7. Why do you think Beowulf’s men desert him now?
8. Why does Wiglaf decide to fight side by side with Beowulf?
9. In the end, is Beowulf still an epic hero? Explain your reasoning.
10. How do the Geats regard their dead king?