

Name: _____
English 12

Date: _____
Period: 1

GRENDL

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.

1. Are the opening lines gripping? Why? Is the monster a compelling character? Do the opening lines gain your attention? What does the presence of a monster suggest about epic poetry?

2. Lines 5 – 15: Find examples of the repetition of consonant sounds in the beginning of words.

3. How is the existence of Grendel explained? Who were Grendel's ancestors? How did he come to exist?

3. Why does Grendel attack Herot?

4. Describe Grendel's assaults on Herot. How long do they last and what is their result?

5. Line 49: What is meant by "The beginning might not be the end"?

6. Line 58 - 59: In what way has hate triumphed?

7. Lines 64 - 65: Explain the meaning of "His misery leaped / The seas."

8. Line 64: What does the phrase "hell-forged hands" suggest about Grendel?

9. Line 84-85: The reference to God shows the influence of Christianity on the Beowulf Poet. What does Grendel's inability to know God's love suggest about him?

10. "The bloody feud" refers to the war between Grendel and the Danes and also indirectly to an ancient war between good and evil. If Grendel is evil, what evidence suggests that Hrothgar is on the side of "good"?

BEOWULF

1. Summarize the important information in the opening passage about Beowulf (Lines 104 – 141).
2. Lines 110-111: The Beowulf Poet uses exaggeration (hyperbole) to help emphasize Beowulf's heroism and to give a strong first impression of Beowulf. What effect does this kind of exaggeration have on epic poetry?
3. (p. 16) What are your first impressions of Beowulf, based on his opening address to Hrothgar?
4. Line 7: What does the poet mean by "Light and life fleeing together"?

5. Lines 32-34: Beowulf insists on fighting Grendel without weapons. Why do you think this is so important to him?
6. Lines 191 – 206: What service did Hrothgar perform for Beowulf's father?
7. Lines 210 -221: Hrothgar's account of the damage Grendel has done provides many examples of alliteration. Locate lines that contain the repetition of an initial consonant sound.