

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Beowulf**  
Study Questions I.

1. At the opening of the poem, what annoys Grendel and leads to his attacks?
2. Describe where Grendel lives.  
  
How is it different from Herot?
3. What does Grendel resent about Hrothgar and his men?
4. What do we learn about Grendell in lines 34 – 40? Be specific.
5. What makes Grendel happy?
6. Why do the Danes flee Herot at night?
7. List the qualities valued by Anglo Saxons found in lines 109 -122.
8. Why does Beowulf sail to Denmark?
9. Who meets Beowulf and his men when they come ashore in Denmark?  
What does he want to know?
10. How does Beowulf respond in lines 173-179?
11. What is Beowulf's plan found in lines 264-279?
12. What does Beowulf ask of Hrothgar?
13. If Grendel wins, what is Hrothgar to do with Beowulf's things?

14. Give examples of alliteration found in lines 285 – 300.

15. What kennings are used in line 325 to describe Grendel?

16. Describe Herot during the fight between Beowulf and Grendel.

Why is this significant?

17. What advantage does Beowulf have in his fight with Grendel?

18. Paraphrase lines 392-397.

19. How does the battle between Beowulf and Grendel end?

20. If Beowulf does not return from fighting Grendel's mother, what are Hrothgar and Unferth to do?

21. Describe Grendel's mother.

22. Why does Beowulf toss aside his sword in the fight with Grendel's mother?

23. How is Beowulf able to defeat Grendel's mother?

24. What does Beowulf do after slaying Grendel's mother?

25. What did Hrothgar and the old warriors think when they saw waves surging and blood spurting through?

26. What happened to the sword which killed Grendel's mother?

Literary elements in *Beowulf*

Define kenning –

Identify the following kennings

shadow of death	<i>Grendel</i>
mankind's enemy	
Healfdane's son	
Higlac's follower	
strongest of the Geats	
protector of this people	
Danes great lord	
shelterer of warriors	
your people's loved friend	
shepherd of evil	
guardian of crime	
Almighty's enemy	
hell's captive	
mighty protector of men	
sin-stained demon	
affliction of men	
prince of the Geats	
Geats great lord	
heaven's own candle	
noble protector of all seamen	
Geats brave prince	



*Beowulf*  
Study Questions, Part II

Name \_\_\_\_\_

27. What characteristics do the dragon and Grendel have in common? Compare and contrast them.
  
28. How does Beowulf plan to fight the dragon?
  
29. How is the battle different from the others Beowulf has fought?
  
30. What is significant about Wiglaf's father Wexstan? What did he do?
  
31. How do Beowulf's men react when the dragon breathes fire on Beowulf?
  
32. Paraphrase lines 779 – 785.
  
33. What is Beowulf's last request?

