

The Beowulf Project

The intention of the Beowulf Project is to go beyond the story, to explain motivations, to put yourself in the shoes of our "evil" characters, to create parts of the story that were missing from our text or to simply show our understanding of the translation at a higher, personal level.

The project options give you opportunities to use technology. You will not be expected to be an expert in any program, rather, you will be expected to use one with which you're already familiar to tell the story (you will not be graded on your technical skills).

You will be required to present your finished project to the class. Presentations will vary depending on the topic and chosen method of technology applied.



Image Source: <http://homepage.mac.com/mseffie/assignments/beowulf/beowulf.html>

Topic Options

- Write a diary as if it were written by Grendel. Start well before his first attack on Herot. With his words, show his motivation and try to convince your reader/viewer to be sympathetic to his character. Do NOT portray him as a cold-blooded killer. *Minimum of fifteen entries.*
- Write a diary as if it were written by Beowulf. We are told of great courage in the story but by definition, we know there is real fear that is slowly revealed through the progression of the battles. Get into his head. What is he thinking? Start back in the land of the Geats as he first hears of the troubles across the sea. Why/how does he decide to fight someone else's battle? Is he torn with his decision? Then show his thoughts as he crosses the sea. Diary entries should then include, at minimum: before the fight with Grendel, his mother and the dragon. *Minimum of fifteen entries.*
- Re-enact the battle between Beowulf and Grendel. (*Windows Movie Maker - See Mr. Janes*)
- Develop a talk show interview or news program interview with Grendel's mother that takes place immediately after her attack. Reveal reasons for her attack and relate her point of view. Present this interview to the class.
- Create a comic book relating the battle between Beowulf and Grendel's mother.
- Tell the story of the men on Beowulf's Viking Ship. Start as they're asked to volunteer in the land of the Geats - trace their route across the water to the land of the Danes - and describe how they felt they were received when they arrived in Hrothgar's kingdom, all the way *through* the party in Herot that night (but not including the attack by Grendel).
- Write and recite the eulogy for Beowulf to be read at his funeral pyre. Describe his heroic character by referring to his courageous adventures *before and during* the epic. You can use creative license to make up/exaggerate some details, as was done back in the day.
- The future of Wiglaf - King or Clown? Is heroism dead in the land of the Geats after the demise of Beowulf? We know he stood, courageously, when Beowulf could no longer. We know he chastised the cowardly men who fled the fight and their king. But what happened after the story ends and what happened to Wiglaf in that changed world?

- The Dragon - Why did the dragon even HAVE all this treasure? Create and write about the events (in episode two of our story) leading up to the dragon protecting the treasure. Why was he guarding it and against whom? Tell the story of the villain who made the fateful decision to steal the prized cup. How did the dragon react - what acts did he commit against the Geats and WHY?
- Parody - Write a parody of Beowulf. Can it be done? If you do, *it needs to be school-appropriate*.
- Fifty Years. That's a long time to live, let alone in absolute peace. Describe the kingdom over which Beowulf ruled from the moment he returned, triumphant, to the moment a fool stole a golden cup from the dragon. Why was there such a long peace?
- The Scop - Recite, as a soliloquy or with others, a *minimum of five minutes* of the poem's translation. Do not worry about the scenery but do worry about how you tell the story. For extra credit, accompany it with a harp. (*Windows Movie Maker - See Mr. Janes*)
- The Art of Beowulf - Create a form of art of a scene from Beowulf (painting, sculpture, collage, sketch, quilt, poster, diorama). (*Non-technology option*)
- The Warrior - You are one of Hrothgar's warriors, living through the terror of the attacks by Grendel against Herot, where you once felt safe. Describe *at least* three attacks - your perception of the monster and your countrymen who are so savagely murdered and taken away for who-knows-what sort of fate.
- The Anglo-Saxon Tribune - Write and publish a news story that would have been written in Beowulf's time about the three battles he faced. The story is to be laid out in multi-column format like a real news story. You are to include at least two photos or graphics. (*Publisher*)
- Cartoon Hero - Choose one of Beowulf's three battles and turn it into a comic strip in which the action is largely or entirely conveyed by means of the illustrations that you draw.
- Alternate Option - Your choice. MAKE SURE MR. JANES FIRST APPROVES IT, lest you do it and not receive credit.

Multimedia Options

You may use any one of the following tools to write, develop and share your project on the Mimio board with the class:

- PowerPoint
- Windows Movie Maker (save as .wmv file for playback)
- PhotoShop (save images as either JPG or PNG)
- Publisher (export pages as JPG - do NOT print)
- Animoto (see Mr. Janes if you need an account)

Again, you will not be assessed regarding your skill level with the application you choose. But you still are urged to use WHAT skills you already do have effectively as one facet of the rubric used to grade your presentation deals with how effectively you used time in producing your project.

***** Save your project to your English IV folder as "Beowulf Project"
(no matter what the format you choose is) *****