

Beowulf Reading Check

1. Hrothgar is the king of which tribe?
2. What is the name of the mead hall?
3. What is the name of the monster?
4. What did Grendel do to thirty men in that mead hall?
5. How long did these terrible deeds continue?
6. Which single man did the monster not dare touch?
7. Who heard about the attacks and decided to come and help?
8. To which tribe did this mighty warrior belong?
9. How did he travel to Hrothgar's kingdom?
10. How many men did he choose to help him fight the monster?

Beowulf Reading Check

1. Beowulf and his crew arrive in the land of the Danes. Are they greeted with a friendly or suspicious response by the Danes?
2. Why do you say so (cite events in the text)?
3. Beowulf tells Hrothgar he will fight Grendel not with a sword, but his...
4. Hrothgar knew someone in Beowulf's family from years ago. Who is this person? You don't need to give the name, but do cite the relationship to Beowulf.
5. Beowulf and his men are treated to a feast in Herot. What drink are they served?

Beowulf Reading Check

1. When Grendel first attacked Beowulf, what did Beowulf do to Grendel?
2. What was Grendel's first thought when this happened?
3. Grendel screamed. How did the warriors react?
4. The men tried to help Beowulf with his struggle. What happened when they did?
5. Beowulf, the hero, won the battle. Grendel ran off to die in the moor. What trophy did Beowulf take from the victory and hang high on the rafters of Herot?
6. In the morning many men traced Grendel's bloody footprints to the lake where he retreated. Describe the water as they saw it.
7. How was this feat immortalized?

Beowulf Reading Check

1. Why did Grendel's mother attack Herot?
2. After she attacked, she took away one victim. Whom?
3. Where was Beowulf during the attack?
4. What else, other than the warrior, did she carry off?
5. Hrothgar describes the lake where Grendel and his mother lived. How deep does he say it is?
6. What does Hrothgar promise Beowulf if he again wins the battle against the monster?
7. What is Grendel's mother's name?

1. How long did it take for Beowulf to descend to the bottom of the lake?
2. Grendel's mother grabbed him and found she could not harm him. The same was for Grendel. Why do you think this is so?
3. She dragged him toward her lair and he soon realizes she has taken him to an odd place to be found under the lake. What is this place?
4. He struck at her with his sword, Hrunting, and surprisingly what happened?
5. How strange! What do you think this means?
6. Eager for glory, he tried a move that worked on Grendel and grabbed her by the shoulder then threw her to the floor. What effect did this have?
7. She overpowers him. What weapon does she use against him?
8. What effect does it have on him and why?
9. He finds another weapon. Where did he find it and what is it?
10. He uses it against Grendel's mother. What happens?
11. Victory to our hero! But he is not done. Why is his heart still angry?
12. He finds Grendel and what does he do to him?

13. Hrothgar and his Dane warriors, watching the turbulence of the lake, were certain of the outcome. What did they think happened in that evil lake?
14. And then what did they do?
15. Back down in the diabolical depths, what happened to the sword?
16. Beowulf swam up. Describe the lake at this point.
17. Why was the lake in this state?
18. The Geats had stayed behind. What did they do with Beowulf when they saw him?
19. Then what happened in the lake?
20. Grendel's skull is also carried away - how is it described?
21. The head is brought to the hall. Why do you think the Geats wanted the Danes to see it?

1. In Beowulf's final boast, he claims he's never known fear and has fought in endless battles. He also says he still seeks what?
2. Does he seem confident or not, regarding fighting the dragon? Cite examples from the text to support your opinion.
3. Beowulf approaches the tower where the dragon lies and the beast knows a man is there. How?
4. The dragon breathes fire on Beowulf who realizes that for once fate is against him, that glory will be denied. But he responds by doing what?
5. What happens to Beowulf's sword?
6. This time, his kinsmen abandon him when all appears lost... all but for one soldier. What is his name?
7. Why did he stay?
8. What do Wiglaf's words say about his character?

1. What does Beowulf tell Wiglaf he needs for his death to be softer?
2. Wiglaf does as his king asks and when he returns to him, Beowulf says, "I sold my life for this... and I sold it well." What does he mean?
3. He asks Wiglaf to make sure he is laid to rest in a particular way. Explain, citing the text.
4. Beowulf dies. His men come out of hiding in the woods and waited for Wiglaf to speak. What did he say to the men?
5. Do any of Beowulf's final wishes surprise you and if so, which? If not, why not? Cite examples from the text.