

Beowulf: Reading 5
Reading 5 Answers

1. Beowulf's men fought with swords, but no sword could hurt Grendel.
Grendel uses no weapons, so Beowulf decides to do the same. However, Beowulf's men use weapons. Grendel is protected against all swords, which explains why he is still alive. Beowulf fighting without his sword is also a sense of nobility.
2. Hrothgar is still known as a good king, and no one blamed him. We heard it when the poem was describing Shield. It is different this time. He is a coward and doesn't send any of his men out to fight Grendel. Instead, a foreigner has to come and fight the monster.
The poet used similar words to describe Hrothgar as he did to describe Grendel. In this poem, the phrase "what a good King he was" can be seen as ironic. He goes to bed to leave a foreigner in charge and returns in the morning to see what happened. Shield and Hrothgar are good kings, but we don't hear about it.
3. The doom of Heorot is foreshadowed by saying, "Betrayal and treasury had not yet been tried."
It is saying that although Heorot has been saved from the kin-killing monster, the hall will soon be destroyed by more kin-killing in the hall.
4. Beowulf and the Hobbit both fight monsters. Beowulf can't use a sword to fight Grendel, and Bilbo can't use a sword to fight Smaug.
They both use riddles. Tolkien is drawing their love of riddles from this chapter of the Hobbit.