

Old English reading 4 Questions

1. Beowulf's rowing contest would have taken place on the Baltic Sea.
2. We find out Unferth was not a good guy, he was a Kin-killer. This ties into the theme that we have read about Cain and Able where killing your relative is seen as the worst crime.
3. The fact that both Unferth and Grendel are still alive shows that they've not fought each other. Unferth is a coward because if he really was the person and the great warrior he brags about, Grendel should be dead. Or even if he isn't a great warrior, Grendel should have killed him.
4. Hrothgar is in a difficult place as the king. He should be leading the fight for safety for his kingdom. But, he has not been able to beat Grendel. As king he also needs to protect himself so he can continue to protect his country.
We are supposed to feel sorry for Hrothgar. He has had to leave his mead-hall and he is old and he is counting on a foreigner to defend his kingdom
5. *In Tolkien we have Goblins that are scary and mean just like Grendel in Beowulf.*

Reading 5 Questions

1. Beowulf's men were useless because of Grendel's hide was too thick to be pierced by any blade. *Beowulf fought with his bare hands and that's what allowed him to kill the monster.*
2. Hrothgar was held blameless. The line "what a good king that was" was also used about Shield Sheafson. They are both used the same way in that they are both good kings but there are also things about them that make you wonder if they did the right thing. For example, that Hrothgar left to go back to his castle and only showed up after the fight.
3. It would seem that in the future we can expect treachery and betrayal by a family member. This is part of the theme where in Anglo Saxon beliefs it is terrible to be destroyed from the inside rather than the outside. *Heorot has been saved from the threat outside of it, but it will not be saved from the eventual kin-killing from the inside.*
4. Tolkien writes about the riddle contest between Gollum and Bilbo and there are also riddles in Beowulf.

Reading 6 Questions

1. The person at the center of this part of the story is Hildeburh. The poem tells how she lost everything including her brother and her son. She lost her family on both sides. We are supposed to be focusing on her grief.
2. I think what he is trying to do is tell us what might happen in the future. He's giving hints that betrayal and death might come. The poet does this by telling two stories that have two similar characters.
The mention of Unferth is to make us think of kin-killing.
3. Grendel's mother comes to take revenge for the killing of Grendel. This is a revenge killing, which is different than kin-killing.
4. Just like Grendel's mother came back to kill its like in *The Hobbit* where they escape one enemy and then there's another enemy. The similarity is that when you get rid of one enemy there's always another one.