

Beowulf reading questions

2. Beowulf says that he bested his enemies, but Unferth's Kith and Kin were killed by his own hands.

Kin killing is what got Cain banished, and the sin that Grendel embodies.

3. Beowulf's comment implies that Unferth is a coward.

One of them should be dead, the only reason one of them isn't, is due to Unferth's cowardly ways.

4. This tells us that Hrothgar is an old king that is tired of Grendel's terror, but is also willing to risk his kingdom's safety, in exchange for his own comfort.

This is also meant to contrast Beowulf's way of ruling and how different they are. We also ask why both Hrothgar and Grendel are still alive.

5. The Hobbit and Beowulf share a common theme of monsters and kingdoms trying to get rid of them.

6. They are useless in the fight against Grendel because, their swords do nothing to Grendel. Beowulf wanted to fight Grendel with just his bare hands. Little did he know, it was the only way to defeat him.

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7. I think the phrase, "what a good king that was", is meant to point out the wrong things that the kings do, almost sarcastically.

The first time we hear this phrase is when Sheild kicks over the mead benches, Grendel does the same, which means it can't mean good.

8. These lines hint at a future betrayal.

He was saved by the kin-killing monster who attacks on the outside, but soon the attacks will come from within.

9. There are riddles in this section, riddles were famously used in *The Hobbit* when Bilbo was in Golem's cave.

10. The focus of the story is Hildebruh. As readers, we are meant to focus on the amount of grief and sorrow in this story.

Specifically, the burning of her brothers, and her husband being brutally murdered.

11. Immediately after hearing about all the tragedies that Hildebruh has endured, we turn to Wealhtheow who is talking to her uncle and nephew. This is a direct contrast to Hildebruh's relatives who were burnt to death.

Kin killing and revenge are very different and usually someone is getting revenge for someone else kin killing, but in this case Grendel and his mother are on the same side.

Vengeance and kin killing are most often opposites in this book, but not in this case.

12. I noticed that in both books, there is always a bigger fish, as soon as one monster has been taken down, a bigger and stronger one shows up.

This section shows that the monsters are never alone and always have allies.