

Reading #7 Questions

1. Beowulf thinks vengeance is the right thing to do, but the Lay of Finn tells us a tragic story about vengeance. I think the poet thinks that vengeance is a bad thing because he takes the time to really tell the reader about the awful things that vengeance can cause.
The poet might be saying that when it comes to monsters, revenge is vindicated in a way that it isn't vindicated with humans.
2. Beowulf is the ring-giver, and his men are his thanes. If Beowulf died, and his thanes returned home, they would be shamed as cowards for being alive still, just like Unferth. Beowulf wants Hrothgar to care for them so they won't have to live like that.
3. Neither Grendel nor his mother can be harmed with swords. When Beowulf trades swords with Unferth, he hopes a kin-killer's sword could kill a kin-killer. Beowulf then abandons that sword once it fails, and finds a huge sword made by the giants, which succeeds in killing Grendel's mother.
Even though the giant's sword killed Grendel's mother, it completely melted except for the hilt.
4. Line 1509 says "This doughty lord of those rings". Maybe Tolkien liked the sound of that line and used it as inspiration for The Lord of The Rings.

Reading #8 Questions

1. Heremond is meant to illustrate what happens if you let yourself be corrupted by greed and pride. Hrothgar tells Beowulf to guard his soul against those things. Hrothgar uses the imagery of pride creeping in and wreaking havoc when the sentry falls asleep. This is very similar to what Grendel does.
2. Beorn is the Saxon word for bear. Beorn in the Hobbit can change into a bear.
Beorn also lives in a hall and serves his guests (when he has them) mead.

Reading #9 Questions

1. Beowulf (the poet) says that the success rate of peace-weavers is very slim, and usually only stops the fighting for a short time.
Vengeance can never be satisfied.

2. Murkwood is kind of like the lake where Beowulf finds Grendel's mother. The lake is full of sea serpents, and many different kinds of creatures and monsters. Murkwood is also filled with all sorts of creatures and monsters.