

Beowulf: Reading 7
Reading 7 Questions

1. Beowulf thinks that revenge should be fought to the death. He also says the warrior who fights to the end is well remembered.
The poet just showed us the tragic effects of vengeance in the Finnsburg episode. But Beowulf seems to indicate it differently, and it looks very noble, and we are supposed to be sympathetic. The poet is showing us that though there are noble heroes like Beowulf in this life, the whole thing is dominated by tragedy.
2. Beowulf's men are loyal to him and won't leave his side until he dies. Beowulf knows that, and they will obey anything he says, so he wants them to go with Hrothgar.
If the leader dies without his men by his side then the men are seen as cowards for not dying with him, and Beowulf doesn't want his men to be seen as cowards, so he is making sure that they are taken care of.
3. There is only one sword that cannot hurt Grendel and his mother, so Beowulf has to find a shortcut to killing Grendel, so he does it bare-handed. With Grendel's mother, he found the sword and sliced her head off.
Beowulf notices that neither Grendel nor his mother can be killed by swords while fighting Grendel, so he has to kill Grendel bare-handed. When he fought Grendel's mother, Unferth gave him the sword that had never failed him except for now when he almost had to fight her bare-handed until he found an ancient sword forged by giants that could kill Grendel's mother, but then the sword magically disintegrated.
4. The evil monsters in both of the books have allies. In Beowulf, Grendel's mother is in charge under the water and has the other monsters in the water fight Beowulf, and in The Hobbit, the goblins have the WARGS.
In Beowulf, Beowulf uses a sword that shines bright, and in The Hobbit, Gandalf's sword "was bright as a blue flame for delight in the killing of the great lord of the cave."