

## Beowulf Reading Questions

1. Beowulf wants to take revenge on Grendel's mother, but vengeance was part of Grendel's motive. *The poet presents Beowulf's point of view in a way that makes us feel sympathy for Beowulf, but he is now advocating the very thing he fought.*
2. Beowulf asks Hrothgar to keep his men because, he descended into the lake by himself and if he didn't come back, his men would look bad because they didn't help him. *Why would any mead-hall welcome a Thane whose ring-giver is dead?*
3. Swords prove to be ineffective against Grendel and his mother, except for the ancient sword which Beowulf cuts off Grendel's head with. Then the sword begins to melt. *Unferth traded swords with Beowulf, and it was that sword that Unferth gave Beowulf that was completely useless.*
4. Beorn lives in a great hall, this takes inspiration from the mead-hall. *The word Beorn means bear, the same way Beowulf means bear.*
5. Heremod is meant to represent the outcome of pride. It starts with greed, they want more and more treasure, and then they take pride in their hunt for treasure. The combo of greed and pride is deadly. Hrothgar tells Beowulf to keep pride out of his heart. *In all of this, Hrothgar is telling Beowulf not to be a dragon king.*
6. The Hobbit and Beowulf both of dangerous creatures in these chapters. *In both story's, they go into caves and forests that are dark and creepy, even though they know it won't be easy.*
7. The poet is saying that blood feud is nearly impossible to end, especially when it comes to monsters. *Vengeance is a monster that can never be satisfied.*
8. The relationship between Hygelac and Beowulf is a common one in Saxon culture. *More specifically, he is the son of Hygelac's sister.*