

## Beowulf Reading questions

1. Beowulf had been ruling for fifty years when the dragon showed up. This is the same position Hrothgar was in.  
*Beowulf has a very different reaction than Hrothgar did when the dragon arrives.*
2. This shows that Beowulf is careful when it comes to taking the throne, and that he honors the words of the people he trusts.  
*Hrothgar warns Beowulf about pride and the treachery that comes along with it, Beowulf stays away from this for all of his life.*
3. In the previous cases, this phrase is a bit sarcastic, but when it comes to Beowulf, this is not the case. He is going to fight the dragon, which is a good and noble thing to do.  
*When we hear this phrase while Hrothgar is king, it is right after he comes back with women, after not fighting Grendel.*
4. The dragon is a clear similarity between the Hobbit and Beowulf.  
*Specifically the cup being stolen and how the dragon is set off by this is a direct reference to the Hobbit.*
5. Beowulf fights a snake after all of his people leave him. This could be seen as a parallel to Christ, and how he had followers that left him when danger presented itself.
6. Smaug and the dragon in Beowulf both have destructive tendencies.  
*We also see that that Beowulf's weapons pose no threat to the dragon, this is the same for Smaug, except in the Hobbit they know Smaug's weak spot.*
7. Treasure is usually given by ring givers in exchange for warriors success.  
*Treasure is meant to be used to secure valor. Heremod was the dragon king who hoarded his wealth, a good king give it away. A ring giver acquires treasure through valor.*
8. Beowulf avenges himself, he does not need someone to do it for him. This points out another difference between Beowulf and Hrothgar. Hrothgar tended to rely on others to do things for him rather than himself. Beowulf on the other hand, is usually the one who gets it done himself and does not count on anyone to do a task for him.  
*As a final parting gift, Beowulf kills the dragon. This means that no more blood will have to be shed for vengeance sake.*
9. The rest of the company is exiled, and no mead-hall will ever take them on again.  
*Wiglaf has no sympathy on these men, he points out that they were hand chosen by Beowulf because he believed that they were the most loyal.*
10. Thorin had become greedy for treasure.

*He is becoming what Hrothgar warned Beowulf of, becoming a dragon king.*