

**BEOWULF QUESTIONS**  
BRITISH LITERATURE  
MRS. PILGREEN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK YOUR COMPREHENSION

1. What does Grendel do when he first goes to the mead hall in Herot?
2. What is Beowulf's plan for fighting Grendel?
3. How does Grendel die?
4. Describe the battle with Grendel's mother.
5. What happens to Beowulf during his fight with the dragon?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. At the beginning of the poem, Hrothgar's warriors are happy, whereas Grendel is consumed by hatred. What causes these differences in attitude?
2. What traits of Beowulf and Grendel raise the fight between them to an epic struggle between good and evil?
  - a. Beowulf:
  - b. Grendel:
3. Compare and contrast the three battles described in these excerpts. In what ways are all three different versions of the main conflict?
  - a. Beowulf vs. Grendel:
  - b. Beowulf vs. Grendel's Mother:
  - c. Beowulf vs. Dragon:
4. What can you infer about Anglo-Saxon beliefs and life from the poem? (lifestyle, traits valued by the culture, etc.) Support your answer with details.

5. Although Beowulf is brave and Grendel is spiteful, both might be said to act out of pride. Explain.
  - a. Beowulf's pride:
  - b. Grendel's pride:
6. Which episode in the epic did you find the most thrilling? Why?

### LITERARY FOCUS

1. Find three details in lines 109-116 that show Beowulf in a heroic light.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. Epics usually center on a battle between good and evil. Find evidence in lines 173-198 that indicates Beowulf is battling for the forces of good.
3. Through Beowulf's deeds, you can infer the qualities that make him a hero. In what specific ways does Beowulf demonstrate loyalty and valor? (List 3)
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

### VOCABULARY BUILDER

Choose the word that is an *antonym* for the first word.

- |                |                  |               |             |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. reparation: | a. reimbursement | b. renewal    | c. theft    |
| 2. solace:     | a. aggravation   | b. resentment | c. comfort  |
| 3. purge:      | a. pollute       | b. purify     | c. complete |
| 4. writhing:   | a. valor         | b. churning   | c. still    |
| 5. massive:    | a. average       | b. tremendous | c. flimsy   |
| 6. loathsome:  | a. disgusting    | b. delightful | c. angry    |