

# BEOWULF PACKET

## LINES 1-2199

### PLOT TIMELINE

1. Place the following events in order.

- Beowulf receives Hrunding.
- Grendel's mother attacks.
- Beowulf fights Grendel's mother.
- Beowulf and Grendel fight.
- Hrothgar builds Heorot.
- Beowulf sinks into the lake.
- Grendel attacks.
- Grendel attacks.
- Unferth challenges Beowulf.
- Beowulf arrives to aid Hrothgar.

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## **BEOWULF'S ARRIVAL**

2. When Beowulf first arrives at Heorot, what does he say about himself to King Hrothgar to convince him of his worthiness to fight Grendel?

3. Describe how Beowulf defeats Grendel. How does Beowulf show off his victory?

## **GRENDDEL'S MOTHER**

4. What does Grendel's mother do in response to her son's death?

5. Describe the lair of Grendel's mother.

6. What sword does Beowulf take into battle? Who gave him the sword?

7. What does the sword's failure in battle suggest about its owner?

8. When his sword fails him, what does Beowulf decide to use to battle Grendel's mom?

9. How is Beowulf's method of killing Grendel's mother ironic?

10. What does Beowulf do to Grendel's body when he finds it lying dead in the corner?

11. What two things did Beowulf take from Grendel's mother's lair?

12. What happens to the Giants' sword after Beowulf uses it on Grendel?

13. What happened to the lake water when the Geats begin to leave the lake at the end of this selection?

### **WHO'S WHO?**

14. Who is Halfdane?

15. Who is Hyeglac?

### **CONFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY AND PAGANISM**

16. Read lines 1651-1670. How does Beowulf display Christian elements in this speech?

## SWORDS AND WEAPONRY

17. List how and why the following weapons are used.

WEAPONS	WHO USES IT/HOW IT IS USED	WHY THIS IS SIGNIFICANT
Beowulf's bare hands		
Hrunting		
Giant's sword		

## BRAVERY VS. COWARDICE

18. Read the following lines about Unferth, then write a paragraph that argues that Unferth undergoes a character transformation from cowardice to bravery.

- 499-532
- 581-601
- 979-989
- 1164-1167
- 1455-1472
- 1488-1491
- 1807-1812

## CHARACTER COMPARISON

19. Contrast the two main female characters in *Beowulf*. List characteristics, actions, and roles. Think beyond just the obvious differences.

WEALHTHEOW	GREDEL'S MOTHER

20. Contrast Beowulf and Hrothgar. List characteristics, actions, and roles. Think beyond just the obvious differences.

BEOWULF	HROTHGAR