

# BEOWULF: THE HERO'S BOAST

## ENGLISH 10 HONORS

The Anglo-Saxons were a brave and bold people who had no problem with letting the world know who they were, what great feats they had accomplished, and what they planned to do. This boasting was perfectly polite, and even expected.

### Beowulf's Boast

Hail! King Hrothgar! I am Hygelac's thane,  
Many a deed of honor and daring I've done in my youth...  
My people, urged me, King Hrothgar,  
To seek you out, to save you.  
They remembered my courage and might.  
Many had seen me fight, blood-drenched in battle  
But untouched by enemy-steel.  
Five foes I defeated, giants, they were!  
I crushed their clan and defeated them.  
And now with Grendel, the man-gnasher,  
I'll settle the strife with my bare hands.

### Directions

Write a formal boast about yourself in the style of Anglo-Saxon poetry. Your accomplishments may be academic, athletic, musical, artistic, etc. Lay aside your humility and tell us how amazing you are! Exaggeration is allowed, but don't overdo it. Consider including some of the following:

- ◇ Your deeds
- ◇ What you plan to do
- ◇ How tough/cool/awesome you are
- ◇ Your victories over enemies
- ◇ Achievements and awards
- ◇

### Guidelines

- ◇ Begin your boast with the following information:
  - Your full name
  - Your parent(s) name(s) and their profession
  - Where you are from and/or where you live
- ◇ End your boast by stating what your next great act will be
- ◇ Include the following elements of Anglo-Saxon poetry:
  - No end-rhyme
  - 2 uses of heavy alliteration (underline the alliteration)
  - 3 original kennings (circle the kennings)
  - Formal and grand tone
- ◇ Minimum length: 12 lines (number your lines)