

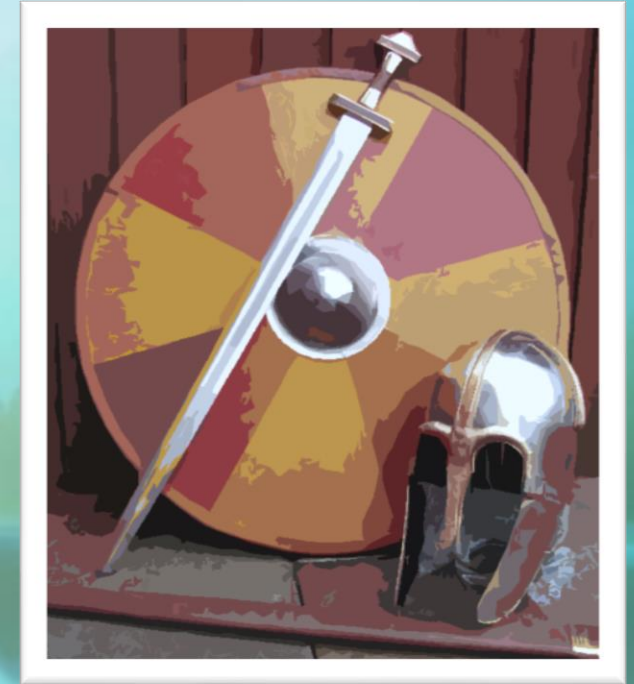
September 4, 2019

BEOWULF

- Reading Quiz #1
- Key Passages: Beowulf and Unferth
- Quotes from “Arms and Armor”

BEOWULF

Key Passages:
Beowulf and Unferth



KEY PASSAGE: Beowulf and Unferth (499-606)

Context

- Beowulf has recently arrived at Heorot and given his boast at the feast. He has not yet faced Grendel.

What to look for...

- Unferth brings up a story from Beowulf's past
- Beowulf offers an explanation
- Beowulf responds personally to Unferth

KEY PASSAGE: Beowulf and Unferth (979-989)

Context

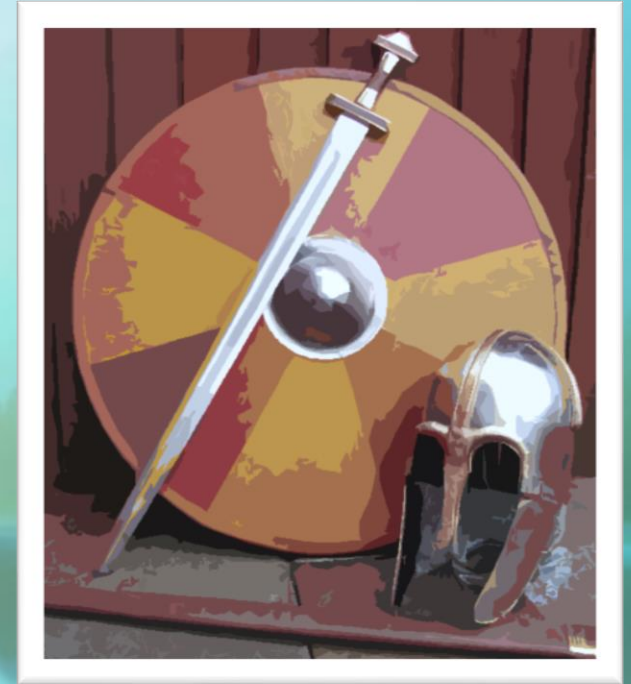
- Beowulf has just defeated Grendel and holds his severed arm for all to see.

What to look for...

- How has Unferth changed?
- What causes this change?

BEOWULF

Arms and Armor
from “Beowulf’s Armor”
by George Clark



ARMS AND ARMOR

“The multitudinous references and allusions to arms and armor pervading Beowulf constitute... a symbol for the heroic life” (409).



ARMS AND ARMOR

“Arms and armor are human artifacts, instances of man’s creative power and of his control over nature; they are status symbols, tokens of order... in human society; they are heirlooms, reminders of the continuity of the race and mortality of the individual” (409).



ARMS AND ARMOR

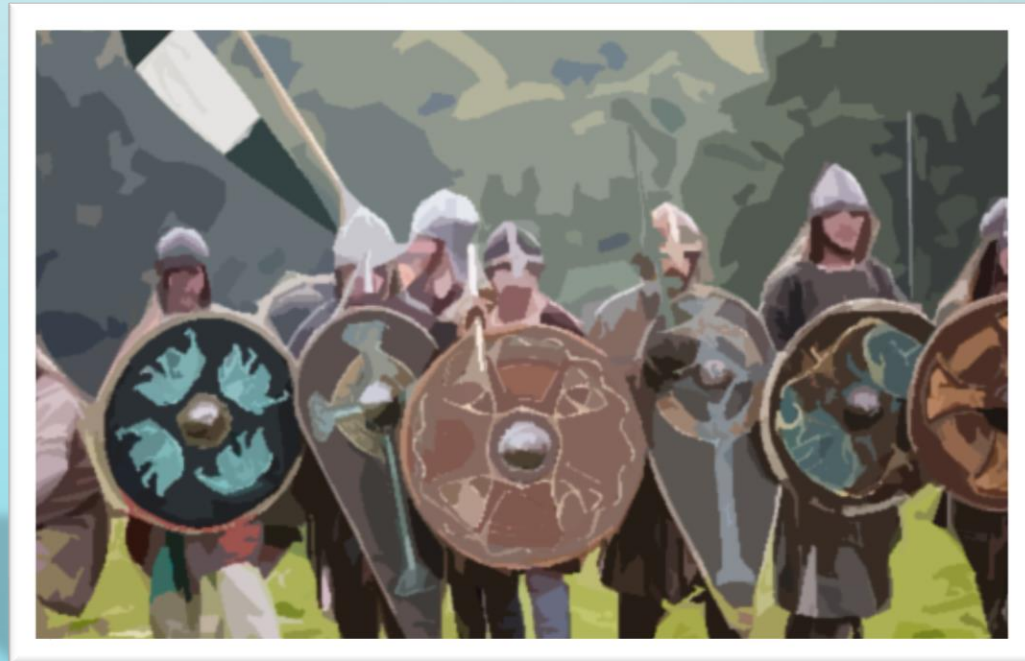
“Arms and armor are both gifts and treasures, and as such they betoken both sides of the heroic contract: the chief’s obligation is generosity, the companion’s courage” (409).

[comitatus]



ARMS AND ARMOR

“The symbolism of arms and armor is strongly and complexly dualistic: the two poles are order and violence” (409).



ARMS AND ARMOR

“Arms and armor in Beowulf ambiguously proclaim man’s humanity and reveal his savagery; references to weapons edge our awareness of the chilling contrast between heroic strength and monstrous power, and allusions to arms ironically link human and beastly violence” (413).





Pattern-welded swords