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Beowulf

The story of Beowulf is one of the greatest heroes. Beowulf is a very generous person, as we know and he is always willing to help people in need. Throughout the story, we find out that Beowulf is in three major battles: with Grendel, with Grendel's mother and the dragon. All three of those battles were different and the way Beowulf approached each of them were different, and there were also different reasons as to why he had to battle with each of them. His first battle, which was against Grendel (and his mother) was to repay the debt that was the blood money the Danish king raised for him (Ecgtheow). Through Beowulf's fearless acts and unfaltering commitment to honor his community, Beowulf manifests his heroic figure, which demonstrates the importance of braveness and loyalty in the face of the intense challenges.

Grendel, a demon casted from Cain, who is the first monster Beowulf encounters. When Grendel makes the attack at the King's mead hall, Beowulf captures him in an intense battle. In spite of Grendel's strong and fierce force, Beowulf's fearlessness and determination triumph as he rips of Grendel's arm, permanently wounding the monster. With this successful outcome and victory, this marks the beginning of Beowulf's well-known status as a hero and this sets the period for the other battles that will happen in the poem. In conclusion, the hero's courage and will to defeat Grendel, showing his in how much he cares for his people and his will to protect them from evil.

Grendel's mother, a fearsome, revengeful creature. She is desired to get revenge from her son, Grendel's, death. Unlike her son Grendel, who attacked mead hall (Hrothgar's hall) out of pure spite, Grendel's mother's motivation to get revenge are based on her instincts. She lived in a dark, gloomy underwater lair, which Beowulf must explore to confront her. Her strength and brutality make her a powerful attacker, but in the end, Beowulf finally defeats her using a giant magical sword that was found in her lair. By defeating such a powerful creature, he improved his character by showing his bravery, strength and heroic self. This makes his status as a hero solidify and he earns some respect from the King Hrothgar and the people from Denmark. The deeds of his became what made his career further which cemented his strongest matches as he fought one again another vengeful creature.

The dragon, a mighty, captivating, and powerful creature that appeared in the final part of the poem. After many years of the peaceful life, Beowulf decides to disturb the dragon's peace and confront him to protect his people. This makes the dragon go on a rampage, burning the villages and causing disruption among people. Regardless of his age, Beowulf fights the dragon with all of his might, but gets poorly wounded, but with the help of a young warrior whose name was Wiglaf, Beowulf still manages to kill the dragon. Nonetheless, the poisonous bite from the dragon leads to Beowulf's death, marking the tragic but heroic end to his life. Beowulf's victory over the dragon was very memorable. In spite of his old age, he still managed to fight and face the dragon to protect his kingdom. In his victory, Beowulf still wants to protect his people and keep them safe. Before he dies, he asks Wiglaf to bring the dragon's treasures to him, and also requests a tower be built in memory so that sailors can remember his deeds.

The purpose of all the numerous fights was to demonstrate Beowulf's incredible strength, heroism and courage, which allowed him to gain fame and respect by protecting his place from the various threats. This proved him as a worthy warrior and leader within his cultural beliefs, and each battle served as a test of his abilities and showed the values of a warrior. He gets seen as a true hero who proved his strength and his commitment to protecting his community, even at his personal cost, this proves the Anglo-Saxon heroic code. Beowulf prioritized his community over his own well-being, demonstrating his preparedness to face the monsters with no hesitation.

His loyalty to the king (Hrothgar) by going against his will against Grendel.

In conclusion, Beowulf is left standing as a testimony of the timeless theme of bravery, heroism, and the main struggle between good and evil. Through the battles with Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon, Beowulf was a great example of the qualities of a hero which was strength, courage, and a sense of good duty. His inheritance, which was immortalized in the poem, continued to inspire readers with its rich storytelling and knowledgeable moral lessons. The tale of Beowulf reminds us that the enduring power of heroism is important in facing our fears to protect and to serve the good.

Works cited

“Beowulf.” Spark Notes, 2024

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/beowulf/characters/>

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