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Mrs. Graning

Beowulf Essay

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Beowulf

In the story "From Beowulf" we are introduced to Hrothgar. He is the Lord of the Danes. From our perspective, he seems like he is a good Lord/King to his people. Hrothgar also cares about his people and his soldiers very much. Although he is a king and as powerful he may seem, he is becoming, or you can say became, very weak due to aging, fighting and other problems. He builds a mead hall, called Heorot. A mead hall is where people basically hang out and talk to each other about things that they are passionate about. In his mead hall, for him it represents how strong he is, how powerful and prosperous he is about what he does. Hrothgar hosts dinners/ feasts for his soldiers/ warriors and gatherings for them. Hrothgar describes his warriors/ soldiers as strengthful, courage, kind, and other very good things. As happy as his warriors are, the monster Grendel then comes in play.

We are introduced to Grendel as the doomed wander of the face of the earth. He is the creature that is defeated by Beowulf. As in Christian words, he is described as a devilish creature and is darkness on earth. He is the destroyer of human beings. He killed many of the Danes, Hrothgar's soldiers. Grendel killed them by sneaking into the mead hall while they were sleeping and clawed them, ripped them and other gruesome things you can think of. After this whole situation happened, for the Danes to protect themselves, they left the mead hall and went to sleep in different beds. While going through grief, they all kept quiet and to themselves so they could weep and mourn about their losses. When Beowulf hears about what Grendel has done, he sets out a mission and vows for revenge. Beowulf calls his soldiers, asks for a ship to be built and heads straight to where Grendel is immediately.

Beowulf and his men are ready for a fight. One of Hrothgar's men, who sees Beowulf on his way over, gets asked by him he requests to be taken to him. When Hrothgar finally sees Beowulf, he remembers seeing him also as a child. Hrothgar welcomes him into his kingdom but before he asks that

Beowulf and his soldiers leave their battle shields, spears and other weapons they have brought with them, outside on the ship. He asks for them to do that so it can be an even battle but also so they will have a work mission and battling without shields, shields, and other weapons is a great start of what they want to achieve. After he gets done with that whole thing, he thinks he is really confident in defeating Grendel since he has defeated sea monsters. Hrothgar is even pleased by how confident he sounds and tells his wife that he is ready and he leads him to the hall where Grendel is.

Beowulf has heard that Beowulf fights with his hands and uses his natural skills' and so he doesn't fight with any weapons. So to be even, Beowulf also fights with no weapons but also has a slight disadvantage. Since as said before, I feel like Grendel knows a lot more about fighting humans and knows their weak spots unlike Beowulf. Grendel gets to his spot / his fighting area like and does almost if not every day but this time he is shocked at who his opponent is, said Beowulf. Their fight is brutal and uses words and phrases such as "The monster's flight, fastened those claws In his fist till they cracked, clutched Grendel Closer. The infamous - which means having a bad reputation or notorious - killer fought For his freedom, wanting no flesh but retreat, Desiring nothing but escape;". To basically explain that whole section, it basically means that Grendel, the "pro/ powerful" fighter, feels defeated and wants to get out of whatever he is stuck in right now. Grendel ends up escaping and leaves the fight losing his arms and he wails away.

Additionally as said in the last sentence, Beowulf's fight with Grendel is over as he has won. Now since Grendel is now deceased, his mother who isn't, wants to strike Beowulf as revenge for her son being deceased. He gets lured into her lair under a lake and they start fighting there. In this fight, Beowulf does use a weapon called a sword. At first, Beowulf uses his hands just like he did with Grendel but he is so frustrated that it, if he kills her with his hands he wouldn't feel that much success so he uses said sword and finishes her by cutting and slicing through Grendel's mother's neck and she drops down to the ground with blood oozing out of her, well where her head used to be. Beowulf knew that it was going to be an easy fight since she has only killed one person while he has killed many. After he defeated them, he feels

a bit accomplished and takes his treasure, which is Grendel's bones and other things of his and shares his story on with his people.

About 50 years later, he became king. All is well at his kingdom before a dragon starts seizing it and terrorizing everyone there. He sees that all of his soldiers/ warriors are scared so he boasts to fight the dragon so it can leave everyone alone. He sees and acts like he's confident. When fighting this monster, Beowulf decides to use weapons this time instead of his bare hands. It is obvious as to why he would be using weapons instead of his bare hands since dragons are a lot stronger than humans. Beowulf also feels as if, if he didnt use weapons the dragon could kill him easily just like that. If Beowulf does end up beating him, He says that “ The treasure of the dragon will be his”. In the story, to make the reader feel something, like the final battle type, they use words such as steam, stone, arches, black sparks, Beowulf's battle cry, and other good describing words for a dramatic scenery. Beowulf and the dragon start fighting, the dragon seems very powerful, very strong, very venomous. The dragon breathes out fires and makes a circle surrounding Beowulf; which the dragon's fire symbolizes hellfire or death, either way you want to put it. Time goes by, Beowulf uses his sword to help him fight the dragon as said earlier, but when Beowulf swings the sword and tries to slice through the dragon, the sword breaks and it leaves Beowulf hopeless. He is now facing the possibility of Death. The dragon bites Beowulf's neck and the dragon's bite is poisonous mind you and so that just immediately means death is Beowulf.

In the end of the story, Beowulf requests that people build a tower in honor of him by the sea and live on his stories of what types of battle he had gone through. He would also want people to mourn and grieve over him for a bit also. He wants to be remembered for how brave he is, how powerful he is, how selfless he is, and how he would do anything to keep his people safe. His death causes Wiglaf, Beowulf's kinsman, to become king and Own the land of the Geats. Wiglaf buries the treasure of Beowulf in said tower built for Beowulf in memory of him. At Beowulf's funeral they ride away in the wind telling great stories about beowulf. In the story we learned about leadership, courage, strength, and how not the be selfish. We learned about how loyal, brave and honorable Beowulf was and it should be admirable for everyone.

