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Mrs. Graning

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Beowulf

Hrothgar was the King of Danes, and he had problems with a monster, Grendel. He called upon Beowulf to help him defeat Grendel. Beowulf did defeat Grendel and ripped his arm off of his body. Although then Grendel's mother got mad and decided she was going to take revenge. She went to Herot, the mead hall, and killed a man. She went into the fiery lake and Beowulf went after her with the sword that Hrothgar gave him. However, the sword that Hrothgar gave him broke. In addition, there was a giant's sword on the wall. Beowulf used it to cut off Grendel's mother's head. About thirty years later Beowulf was in his kingdom with the Geats. There was a monstrous dragon, and Beowulf was going to defeat it to save his people. Beowulf got injured and Wiglaf saved him and defeated the dragon. Beowulf represents the qualities of an epic hero through his astonishing strength, steady courage in the face of any intimidating enemy, and his commitment to the greater good; as he battles monsters, he continues to protect humanity and integrate the ideals of bravery, honor and sacrifice.

Throughout the poem, Beowulf exemplifies his bravery by facing intimidating foes like Grendel, Grendel's mother, and later the dragon, all without the fear for his own life. "I've never known fear; as a youth I fought in endless battles. I am old now, but I will fight again, seek fame

still.” “ Beowulf went to the kingdom of the Danes to help Hrothgar, and even left his armor at the door as Hrothgar asked him.” This proves that Beowulf will do everything in his power to help other people. Grendel, a fierce monster, terrorizes Herot for twelve years, until Beowulf puts an end to it. “My Lord Higlac might think less of me if I let my sword go where my feet were afraid to, if I hid behind some broad linden shield: my hands alone shall fight for me, struggle for life against the monster.” “Beowulf summons even greater strength and rips Grendel’s arm completely out of its socket.” This proves that Beowulf gets rid of Grendel, he runs back to his swampy home.

After this Grendel’s mother was very agitated she wanted revenge, although Beowulf had other plans. “I’d use no sword, no weapon, if this beast could be killed without it, crushed to death like Grendel, gripped in my hands and torn limb from limb.” “Caught her in the neck and cut it through, broke bones and all. Her body fell to the floor, lifeless, the sword was wet with her blood, and Beowulf rejoiced at the sight.” This shows that Beowulf killed Grendel’s mother, Hrothgar gave him a sword, although it just broke. So he had to use the giant’s sword to kill her. About thirty years passed and Beowulf was at his kingdom, land of the Geats and there was a fierce dragon trying to kill Beowulf’s people. Beowulf wanted to put an end to defeating the dragon. “And Beowulf drew His battle-sharp dagger: the bloodstained old king still knew what he was doing.” “Quickly, he cut the beast in half, slit it apart.” Beowulf always wanted to protect his people no matter what, he died trying to save them from the dragon, and he did save them. A reason that supports Beowulf as an epic hero is that he consistently demonstrates impressive bravery and strength in the face of danger, expressing the heroic ideals of his time. “I shall fight Grendel with my bare hands.” This statement shows his bravery and confidence, showing that he

is willing to face formidable challenges without any weapons, which in discussion reflects the qualities of an epic hero.

Beowulf is the prototype of an epic hero because he resembles the qualities of bravery, strength, and honor that define the archetype. "So. The Spear-Danes in days gone by and the kings who ruled them had courage and greatness." Beowulf cared for other people and tried his best to help when he could. Beowulf is the prototype for the story because he embodies the essential traits of an epic hero, such as courage, strength, and a strong moral compass. His willingness to confront formidable foes like Grendel and his mother without hesitation showcases his bravery and commitment to protecting his people. Additionally, his journey reflects the classic hero's quest, where he faces challenges that test his abilities and character. Through his actions and values, Beowulf sets the standard for what it means to be a hero, influencing countless stories that followed.

Beowulf shows the characteristics of an epic hero through his strength, common courage in the face of any intimidating enemy, and his devotion to the greater good; as he fights monsters, he continues to protect people and integrate the ideals of bravery, honor and sacrifice.

In conclusion, Beowulf stands as a timeless representation of the epic hero archetype, showcasing qualities such as bravery, loyalty, and a strong sense of duty. His legendary battles against Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon not only highlight his physical strength but also his commitment to protecting his people. Through his actions and the values he embodies, Beowulf not only fulfills the expectations of an epic hero but also leaves a lasting legacy that continues to resonate in literature and culture today. Beowulf is a good person overall because he consistently demonstrates a sense of duty and compassion towards others. He willingly risks his life to protect the Danes from the terror of Grendel and later Grendel's mother, showing his

selflessness and bravery. Even in his old age, he faces the dragon to safeguard his own kingdom, prioritizing the well-being of his people above his own safety. His actions are driven by a desire to help and protect, rather than personal gain, highlighting his noble character and integrity.

Worked Cited

Beowulf. Verse Translation, Burton Raffel. 1875 J.A. Malmstrom

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