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Mrs Graning

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### *Beowulf*

Beowulf is the oldest poem in old English from the anglo saxon period. As the main character in this story, Beowulf shows his strong heroic qualities in defeating the monsters to save his kingdom. Beowulf expresses his loyalty, pride and shows his desire to win for his kingdom which embodies pagan virtues. Beowulf overcomes many obstacles throughout the story but becomes defeated in the end. Beowulf is a hero-like champion who saves the danes in Geatland. They are terrorized by a monster named Grendel for 12 years and Beowulf realizes that he can help defeat Grendel to save his city. Beowulf embodies his strength, which he yearns to win to save his kingdom and illustrates virtues of pride and loyalty of his time.

Beowulf uses his unbelievable strength to defeat Grendel in the fight at Geattland.

Beowulf is a strong and heroic person. While trying to save his kingdom, he defeats Grendel with his bare hands. He is fearless about fighting Grendel; he decides he doesn't want weapons to fight him instead uses his hands. In the lines of *Beowulf* it says, "behind some broad linden shield/ my hands alone shall fight for me, the struggle for life against the monster/ God must decide." (canto 6) By not using weapons, this shows how much strength he has while fighting Grendel. Beowulf knows his limits and how powerful he really is by using his hands.

Beowulf's pride expresses how much passion he has for his kingdom and the will to serve his kingdom. Beowulf's pride plays a big role in the story, however his pride can lead him to having a drastic downfall. Beowulf's pride outshines everyone else in the story, he has more pride than anyone in Gaetland. Beowulf wanted to show how powerful he can be and show he can do it on his own. In the lines of *Beowulf*, it states, "I alone and with the help of my men,/may purge all evil from this hall." This explains that he knew he could defeat Grendle and wanted to show the land he can do it himself. His passion led him to let one of his soldiers die before the fight with Grendel. He wanted to see what Grendel's fighting tactics were like so he could win against Grendel. He let his own soldier get sacrificed just to see how Grendel fought. In the lines of *Beowulf* it states, "with rows of young soldiers resting together/ and his heart laughed/ he relished the sight/ intended to tear the life from those bodies by morning." This explains how he will do anything to win and expresses how much pride he has to help save his kingdom and make it better again.

Beowulf's bravery helps shape him as a person and helps prove his personal values. Beowulf is a very heroic character, he fought many battles against many monsters on his own. He even fought Grendel with his bare hands to get Grendel to stop terrorizing Gaetland. Beowulf embodies his bravery by protecting his people from a dragon. He unfortunately lost to the dragon while protecting his people. His loyalty to his people shows how brave he truly can be. In the lines of *Beowulf* it states, "remembering everything his lord and cousin have given him." This explains that Beowulf was loyal to his soldiers and that one of his own soldiers came back to try to help him defeat this dragon. However, he showed his bravery by trying to defeat the dragon. He knows that he is too old to fight anymore but he wants to protect his people. He knows that

he will lose but his personal values lead him to fight the dragon. In the lines of *Beowulf* it states “I’ve never known fear, as a youth I fought/in endless battles/I am old now.” This shows that he knows he is too old to fight but he is willing to try to defeat the dragon.

Beowulf has characteristics of pagan virtues which gives him superhuman strength.

Beowulf has many pagan virtues that are expressed throughout the book as he expresses his heroic boast on how he will defeat Grendel. Beowulf does superhuman things such as defeating dragons or monsters which are pagan virtues. Another example of Beowulf's pagan virtues is Wyrd which had a huge role in the book *Beowulf*. He knows he will win the fight against Grendel's mother because he was destined to win against them, however once he got older the dragon needed to be killed. He needed to fight the dragon but he knew fate was against him during this fight. In the lines of *Beowulf* it states, “ I mean to stand and not run/ stand till fate decides.” This explains that he knows fate is against him, but he will stand tall and still fight the dragon. Although Beowulf uses *wyrd* in the book he also uses *lof*. *Lof* is one of the tactics that made Beowulf take a dangerous quest to save his land. This brought him fame and brought him to have loyal soldiers.

In conclusion, Beowulf was a hero like a champion. He had many soldiers who cherished him and looked up to him as an idol. He showed many pagan virtues by proving his loyalty to his people. He knew he was destined to fight for his people and win many times. Fate was against him at the last fight but loyalty and pride would not let him quit. He conveyed his pride and bravery for his kingdom by helping save them from the monsters. In the end, he ultimately lost the fight for his kingdom.

## Works Cited

Heany, Seamus. *Beowulf*. Faber & Faber, 2000