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Beowulf

The timeless Anglo-Saxon fictional poem *Beowulf* exhibits the internal fight between good and evil. In sixth century Denmark, a mead hall called Herot is being terrorized by a monster named Grendel. Herot is usually a happy place where soldiers feast and rejoice. However Grendel goes upon a murderous rampage causing the festivities to cease. As a solution the king of the Danes Hrothgar asks Beowulf for help. Beowulf is a larger than life hero who has won many battles. Beowulf kills Grendel and soon after kills his mother too. When Beowulf returns home to Geatland he finds his people being harassed by a dragon. People claim the dragon is hoarding some sort of treasure. Beowulf defeats the dragon but is killed by the dragon's poisonous fangs. Beowulf dies and his people grieve his death heavily. Beowulf proves himself to be a larger than life hero throughout his battles by showing strength, bravery, and nobility.

Beowulf exhibits his mighty strength throughout the story; as well as showcasing how he uses his power while staying loyal to his village and culture. Grendel was a beastly monster who terrorized the Danes for twelve long winters. When Grendel is confronted about his long history of terrorizing, he realizes he may be no match for the mighty Beowulf. "Bent back as Beowulf leaned up on one arm. That Shepherd of evil, guardian of crime, knew at once that nowhere on earth Had he met a man whose hands were harder; His mind was flooded with fear but nothing

could take his talons and himself from that tight hard grip. Grendel's one thought was to run from Beowulf" (190-197). This shows how strong Beowulf was by saying Grendel had never met a man on earth that strong. Beowulf was so confident in his strength he didn't bring weapons to fight Grendel. He used nothing but his bare hands to tear off Grendel's arm. When fighting Grendel's mother Beowulf's sword breaks so he has no choice but to use the giant sword in Grendel's Mother's home. "Then he saw, hanging on the wall, a heavy sword, hammered by giants, strong and blessed with their magic, the best of all weapons but so massive that no ordinary man could lift (429-432)". No ordinary man can pick up this sword so it shows that Beowulf is unnaturally strong. Not only is Beowulf strong but also incredibly brave.

Beowulf's bravery compels him to face hordes of terrifying beasts. One of the most terrifying being the fire breathing dragon he battles at the end of the story. Beowulf often boasts about his bravery; an example of this is right before his battle with the dragon when he makes his final boast. "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, if the dragon hiding in his tower dares to face me (484-488)". Beowulf shows his bravery in this canto by saying he's never been afraid. He goes into every battle with no fear ready to fight until he wins. His bravery is also displayed by how calm and confident he feels even though he's about to fight a dragon. When Beowulf is asked to defeat Grendel's mother he agrees without hesitation. "As his words ended. He leaped into the lake, would not wait for anyone's answer; the heaving water covered him over (364-366)". This shows his bravery by saying he doesn't wait for anyone to help and just dives right into scary situations. Along with bravery Beowulf also shows nobility.

Throughout the story Beowulf repeatedly saves people in need of his help. He proves himself to be noble through his words and actions. “Too, that the monster’s scorn of men, Is so great that he needs no weapons and fears none. Nor will I. My lord Higlac Might think less of me if I let my sword Go where my feet are afraid to (142-146)”. Beowulf refusing to use weapons when he fights Grendel is an example of Beowulf being noble through his actions. When Beowulf fights Grendel’s Mother he comes very close to losing. His sword breaks leaving him with nothing to fight with but his bare hands. However he never gives up or loses hope. Instead continues to fight because he knows he must protect the people or die trying. “But Beowulf longed only for fame, leaped back Into battle. He tossed his sword aside, Angry; the steel edged blade lay where he’d dropped it. If weapons were useless he’d use his hands (401-406)”. Beowulf shows his true character when he’s willing to fight without any weapons to showcase his strength and courage.

Beowulf is a strong, brave, and noble hero. He portrays many larger than life abilities and is a great embodiment of an Anglo-Saxon hero. Throughout the book Beowulf fights in numerous battles and repeatedly proves himself to be a hero. Beowulf goes into every battle no matter the enemy fearless and without hesitation.