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Graning

English II

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Beowulf

In the Old English story of *Beowulf* written by the Anglo-Saxons , Beowulf is introduced as a character who traveled from Geatland to the land of the Danes to help Hrothgar protect his people from the monster Grendel who had been terrorizing the mead hall (Herot) for 12 years and the other monsters Grendel's mom and the Dragon . Beowulf only used his hands in fights because he did not trust swords. Beowulf was a very trusting and loyal leader who desired to bring his kingdom to victory in every battle no matter what it took . Beowulf overcame many obstacles in this story but is defeated in the end. Beowulf was an epic hero who had many larger than life traits who achieved many things, how beowulf embodies the virtues and ideals of his culture

Beowulf had many extraordinary traits which made him the epic hero he was.' An epic hero is the main character of a quest that uses their extraordinary traits to achieve great things'. This describes Beowulf because he used his traits which include - Extreme strength , Bravery , wisdom , Loyalty which helped him defeat monsters in battle. He used these early in the book when he defeated Grendel at Geatland when he used his bravery,wisdom and courage when Grendel tore into the top of the tower where they were sleeping and he grabbed up one of the soldiers and ripped him in half and drank his

blood. This shows courage because , He had a lot of courage watching a monster kill one of his soldiers knowing he was gonna be the next target and just staying there. It shows wisdom because he was smart to see how Grendel defeated people and how he could defeat him in this battle. Story of *Beowulf* ‘ Human eyes were watching his evil steps, Waiting to see his swift hard claws. Grendel snatched at the first Geat he came to , ripped him apart , cut his body to bits with powerful jaws, drank the blood from his veins and bolted him down, hands and feet ; death .’ (Lines 176 - 184) He used his extreme strength when he ripped Grendel's arm off with his bare hands in Battle. In the story *Beowulf* ‘ He twisted in pain, and the bleeding sienews deep in his shoulder snapped , muscle and bone split and broke’ (lines 256 - 259).

Beowulf achieved many great things throughout this story. Beowulf achieved many things such as killing Grendel when he ripped his arm off. He also achieved killing Grendel's mom by slicing her neck with the giant sword gifted to him by the giants . The story says ‘ And then, savage, now angry and desperate, lifted it high over his head and struck with all the strength he had left, caught her in the neck and it cut through, broke bones and all, her body fell to the floor, lifeless’. (Lines 435 - 440) He achieved banishing the giants off the face of the earth by putting them in chains. In *Beowulf* it states “ I drove five great giants into chains , chased all of that race from the earth” (Line 128 - 131) Another achievement he achieved was killing the dragon in the dragon's lair even though it was the last battle he ever fought. In the story *Beowulf* it says “ Quickly, he cut the beast in half , split it apart. It fell , their courage had killed it. (line 627 - 629) all of these achievements made him the great well known soldier everyone knows him as.

Beowulf expresses many Anglo-Saxon ideologies and virtues throughout this story. Beowulf shows many virtues but the main one he shows is LOF. LOF means fame in Anglo-Saxon literature which plays a big part in their pagan beliefs because they believe that if they have enough fame they can have eternal life. Beowulf fought all his battles to achieve this fame to have eternal life. In the story *Beowulf* it states “But I will fight again, seeking fame still” (line 486) this shows you by him saying the word still that he has always fought for fame. He also shows the value of wyrd. Wyrd means fate and destiny , and in this story Beowulf destiny was to fight monsters and save his kingdom because he had much pride for his people and his land. His final words are an example of Lof because he talks about how he wants a tower so he can be remembered forever and he wants all the dragon's gold and riches to be given to his people. In the story *Beowulf* it quotes “I sold my life for this treasure , and I sold it well. Take what I leave, Have the brave Geatsa build me a tomb, when the funeral flames have burned me , and build it there , at the water edge , high on this spit of land , so sailors can see this tower , and remember my name, and call it Beowulf’s tower” (Lines 690 - 699) His pagan values were a success because the tower was built and all the riches from the dragon's lair are buried in it.

In conclusion, Beowulf was a much looked upon epic hero who used his larger than life traits to the best of his abilities to defeat all monsters to protect his kingdom with his strength , courage , wisdom and willingness to win. He showed Anglo - Saxon pagan virtues such as Lof and Wyrd which played a big part in this story. *Beowulf* was a very good Anglo saxon story that shows off all their traits and beliefs from their culture.

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