

Brock Burgess

Mrs Graning

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## Beowulf

In the Old English epic poem of Beowulf, Beowulf is introduced as the character from the land of the Geats to help out Harthogar, the king of the Danes, to defeat a monster that had been terrorizing their mead hall named Heorot for twelve years. Beowulf decided that he would fight the monster, Grendel, with his bare hands since that is how the monster attacks and kills all of his prey. While fighting the monster he lets one of his noble soldiers get killed so he can see how Grendel attacked his prey, and when Grendel was at him he jumped just and pulled Grendel's shoulder and arm off which made him run back to his home. This act made the people of the kingdom happy that they could enjoy the place where they would tell stories and drink again. After Beowulf and his group of warriors had left, the monster's mother was angry and wanted revenge for what they had done to her son. She went to the Danes' kingdom and would kill more Danes until Hrothgar got tired of seeing his people die and messaged Beowulf that there was another monster terrorizing their kingdom. Beowulf decided that he would help fight the monster's mother and went to the place that she lives to fight her. When he arrived at the place that she lived it was a fiery lake that made it an allusion to hell in which the only person to be able to hold their breath and go in the lake was Beowulf. The sword he was given to defeat was not strong enough to be wielded by Beowulf and broke on impact. Beowulf grabbed the giant's sword which was

strong enough to be handled by Beowulf' and cut off the head of the monster and his mother. Back at the surface when Beowulf arrived with the heads of both of the monsters he was given treasure from the Danish people. When Beowulf got back to his homeland of the Geats we became king and served as king for fifty years. A dragon began to terrorize the people in the land of the Geats. Beowulf ends up dying after he and Wiglah defeat the dragon and the poison from its teeth ends up killing Beowulf. When Wiglah got back to the kingdom to tell the story of the fight he let the people know that Beowulf had passed and he wanted a tower built for him on the sea side. The character Beowulf stood out as a hero who showed off many characteristics of being a larger than life hero, he also embodies many traits of an anglo-saxon ideology and virtues.

Beowulf shows that he is an epic hero many times throughout the poem in quests and noble deeds. He shows that he is an epic hero through the quest he is given during the story that gains him fame after completing it. Beowulf shows this trait through him killing Grendel and his mother and the fame he is given after the quest that he completes. Beowulf says "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." (Canto 35, Line 485-488). After fighting and completing this quest Beowulf would return home to the Geats land, and home Beowulf was knighted to become king of his home land. During Beowulf stint of reign as king he became known as one of the best kings that the geats have had and was the most fair king too. Beowulf was a good king because he was one who kept the peace, protected his people, and was not stingy with the treasure he acquired. Beowulf says "For fifty winters: no neighboring people have tried to threaten the Geats, sent soldiers against us or talk of

terror” which shows that Beowulf was a strong leader who people were scared of and didn't want to mess with. (Canto 37 line 656-658).

Beowulf demonstrates many traits on how he is a larger than life character in this poem through accomplishment that he completes and things he can do that normal people can't. Beowulf embodies larger than life characteristics like him having superhuman strength and being able to beat monsters. Beowulf shows off his superhuman strength multiple times throughout the poem when he fights a monster and his ancient iron sword breaks on impact. In the poem the narrator said “ Nagling broke to pieces, as iron always had in Beowulf’s hands. His arms were too strong, the hardest blade could not help him” (canto 36 line 604-607). With his superhuman strength he uses his strength for good and fights non-human monsters. Beowulf fighting larger than life monsters shows that he has larger than life characteristics as well. We see him fight larger than life creatures when he fights Grendel and his mother along with the dragon that he and Wiglah fight. We see this happen when Beowulf goes and kills Grendel who had been terrorizing the danes for twelve years. If anyone could just kill the monster then it would have been done earlier and many people wouldn't have suffered because of Grendel.

Beowulf embodies many anglo-saxon ideologies and virtues throughout the poem. Beowulf shows virtues of lof throughout the poem in many ways. He tries his whole life to gain fame through fighting many larger than life creatures and helping out other communities so his legend would live on and he can become immortal after his death. Beowulf says build him a tower by the sea so when people are traveling they will see the tower and remember him as someone who gave their life for the protection of his home

land. Beowulf shows Comitatus with hrothgar and both of their armies. They show great noble peace like when they first come to the land of the danes when they leave their weapons and armor at the door of the kingdom.

Beowulf shows off many traits that would make him an epic hero through his noble deeds and quests he had completed. Beowulf also shows many larger than life traits throughout the poem that make it more obvious that he is a larger than life hero. He also embodies many characteristics of the anglo-saxons ideological and virtues.

### Work Cited

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