

1. Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage. Then present your interpretation of its connotation in the context of the whole story it belongs to in a passage of about 4–6 sentences in length:

"Grendel was the name of this grim demon
haunting the marches, marauding round the heath
and the desolate fens; he had dwelt for a time
in misery among the banished monsters,
Cain's clan, whom the Creator had outlawed
And condemned as outcasts. For the killing of Abel..."

— From *Beowulf*, in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. B, p. 126.

2. Writing

Write an essay of about 1,200–1,500 words to argue for the following topic:

The world of aquatic animals in “The Trial at the Dragon King’s Palace” by Nguyễn Dữ