

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. How does Beowulf solve the problem of slaying Grendel's mother after his own sword fails him?
 - Ⓐ He uses his incredible strength to defeat her as he did with Grendel.
 - Ⓑ He takes a sword made by giants and uses it against her.
 - Ⓒ He tricks her into falling into a trap where she is killed.
 - Ⓓ He signals for his men, and they rush in and slay her.
2. On the basis of this story, what can you tell about King Hrothgar?
 - Ⓐ He is a generous, noble, and well-liked man.
 - Ⓑ He is unkind and suspicious.
 - Ⓒ He is generous but not very brave.
 - Ⓓ He is not very generous.
3. *An outcome or series of events in one's life that is beyond one's control* is called _____.
 - Ⓐ fate
 - Ⓑ honor
 - Ⓒ prayer
 - Ⓓ nobility
4. Which detail from the story shows that Beowulf's men care for him?
 - Ⓐ They celebrate when Grendel's mother is defeated.
 - Ⓑ They build a strong boat to sail to help the king.
 - Ⓒ All but one of his men run from the dragon.
 - Ⓓ They stay at the pool's edge even when King Hrothgar's men leave.

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5. How does Beowulf feel about slaying Grendel?
 - Ⓐ He is unsure and nervous but agrees to do it anyway.
 - Ⓑ He is reliant on the strength of his men and feels confident.
 - Ⓒ He will take on the challenge only if promised great rewards.
 - Ⓓ He is confident and promises to fight to the death.
6. Mail is _____.
 - Ⓐ a leather holder for a heavy sword
 - Ⓑ armor made from metal plates or rings linked together
 - Ⓒ a special shield used only with the deadliest enemies
 - Ⓓ a metal helmet used to protect a warrior in battle
7. What conclusions can you draw about Beowulf's character on the basis of his actions in the story?
 - Ⓐ He fights enemies only for fame and treasure.
 - Ⓑ He is concerned only about protecting his own men and not the king's men.
 - Ⓒ He is brave and wants to use his strength for the benefit of all.
 - Ⓓ He admires men who are stronger than himself.
8. Which of the following events happens first?
 - Ⓐ King Hrothgar's closest friend is killed.
 - Ⓑ Beowulf wrestles with Grendel in the golden hall.
 - Ⓒ Beowulf kills the dragon that has been attacking his people.
 - Ⓓ Beowulf plunges into the pool to find Grendel's mother.

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9. Why does King Hrothgar call for Beowulf after Grendel's mother attacks his men?
- Ⓐ The king does not want to put himself or his men at risk.
 - Ⓑ Beowulf is the only man strong enough to defeat Grendel's mother.
 - Ⓒ The king wants Beowulf to set a trap for Grendel's mother.
 - Ⓓ The king wants Beowulf to train his men so they can defeat her.

10. When someone **perishes**, he or she _____.
- Ⓐ is chosen to rule a large group of people
 - Ⓑ fights for the freedom of others
 - Ⓒ dies in a sudden or an unexpected way
 - Ⓓ studies to become a great warrior

11. **Extended Response:** Why does Beowulf order his men to wait for him on the mountainside while he faces the dragon alone?

12. **Extended Response:** Who is Wiglaf, and why is he important in the story?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Beowulf

Main Comprehension Skill: Analyze Character

1. **(B)** Problem and Solution
2. **(A)** Analyze Character
3. **(A)** Vocabulary
4. **(D)** Main Idea and Details
5. **(D)** Analyze Character
6. **(B)** Vocabulary
7. **(C)** Analyze Character
8. **(B)** Sequence Events
9. **(B)** Cause and Effect
10. **(C)** Vocabulary
11. Students' responses will vary but should include the idea that Beowulf feels it would be shameful to fight the dragon with a large group of men since, in his youth, he was able to slay Grendel and Grendel's mother alone.
12. Students may note the following:
Wiglaf is one of Beowulf's men. He is the only man who stood with Beowulf in the face of the dragon. Wiglaf was crucial in the slaying of the dragon that might not have been killed otherwise.