

## YEAR 9 EXTENSION HOMEWORK FOR ENGLISH

**Read the short summary of Beowulf and complete the questions and tasks below it. Use this as background information before you read a children's version of Beowulf. Use the link at the end of the summary to take you to the children's version. You will need to read all of the children's version, and you can also listen to the story using the audio recording.**

Beowulf is one of the most famous poems in old English. It is about three thousand lines long and the story revolves around three battles.

In the poem, Beowulf, a warrior from Geats comes to the rescue of Hrothgar, the king of the Danes whose land is being attacked by a monster, Grendel. Beowulf succeeds and defeats Grendel. To show his prowess, he even kills Grendel with his bare hands. However, the tension of the story escalates, because Grendel's mother is now on the warpath to get revenge. As the story progresses, Beowulf kills Grendel's mother in her lair with a sword that giants of a past time once used.

After this victory, Beowulf returns home to Geats. Fifty years pass. However, there is one final battle. There is a dragon that plagues his people because of stolen treasure. More importantly, Beowulf now has to defend his people. He fails at first, but then with the help of Wiglaf, a servant, chases the dragon into its lair and kills it. However, in the process, Beowulf receives a fatal wound and dies. Finally, he is buried at sea.

**CLICK ON THE LINK TO READ A MODERN CHILDREN'S VERSION OF BEOWULF. YOU CAN ALSO LISTEN TO A READING OF THE TEXT ON THE LINK.**

<https://qarrtsiluni.com/2011/04/12/beowulf-a-retelling-with-children-in-mind/>

1. What is a kenning?
2. Write down an example of a kenning, or a poem with one or more kennings in it.
3. After reading the complete children's version of Beowulf, write a paragraph on why Beowulf is considered a hero. Use quotes from the children's version to support the points you make and link your quote to your explanation. (PEE)
4. Why does Beowulf travel to Heorot and what do these motives reveal about his character? Refer to the children's version of the text of Beowulf. You need to read it from the link provided above question 1.
5. Conduct independent research on the importance of Beowulf in English Literature. Then, explain in one or more paragraphs why Beowulf is regarded as such an important piece of literature in the English-speaking world.
6. Write a story in which you create a hero who fights against a monster. Use imagery and at least one kenning. Length: 1-2 A4 pages.