Mr. Valentine’s 12th Grade English – Week 4 - Beowulf

From the beginning to the battle with Grendel

*Answers to the following questions can be found in last week's notes, the handouts, and in pages 18–25 of Elements of Literature.*

1. Know alliteration, kennings, epic heroes, and the Anglo-Saxon virtues from last week.

2. Who, according to scholars, wrote *Beowulf*?

3. Why does King Hrothgar of the Danes build Heorot?

4. Who attacks Heorot, and why?

5. What biblical figure does the monster descend from, and what was his crime?

6. Who comes to slay the monster, and why?

7. What does Unferth claim about Beowulf, and how does he respond?

8. How many serpents did Beowulf slay?

9. How does Beowulf show strength and courage in the swimming match?

10. Why does Beowulf not use weapons against Grendel, and what virtues does this show?

Mr. Valentine’s English IV Standard – Week 4 – Beowulf - Continued

*Answers to the following questions may be found in the readings for Beowulf (the battles with Grendel’s mother and the dragon).*

11. What piece of Beowulf’s equipment survives the battle with Grendel’s Mother?

12. What trophy does he take from the battle with Grendel's Mother, and what does he not take?

13. How does Beowulf change over the course of the three battles (Grendel, Mother, and Dragon)?

14. Who stands by Beowulf in his final battle with the dragon and gives a speech to the running thanes?

15. How does Beowulf die?

16. What are Beowulf’s last words and thoughts concerning?

17. What were the most important events in Beowulf’s life?

18. What are Beowulf’s last requests, and which ones are followed / not followed?