

Name: _____

The Hero Within: Discovering Beowulf and the Anglo Saxon Heroic Code



Directions: Using only the following quotes as a basis for your discussion, your group will attempt to create a character map of the main character of the epic poem, *Beowulf*. Your map should include a drawing of Beowulf, his major characteristics, and his worldview (Ex: Does he seem to live by a code?) Use evidence from your quotes to support your analysis.

“...The battle was over, Beowulf
Had been granted new glory:” (340-341).

“...Beowulf,
A prince of the Geats, had killed Grendel,
Ended the grief, the sorrow, the suffering
Forced on Hrothgar’s helpless people...” (354-355).

“Then old and young rejoiced...retelling
Beowulf’s bravery as the jogged along” (375-379).

“...And sometimes a proud old soldier
Who had heard songs of the ancient heroes...
Would weave a net of words for Beowulf’s
Victory...” (389-393).

“[Beowulf] leaped into the lake, would not wait for anyone’s
Answer; the heaving water covered him
Over. For hours he sank through the waves;
At last he saw the mud of the bottom” (450-453).

“...Then he realized, suddenly,
That she'd brought him into someone's battle-hall
And there the water's heat could not hurt him,
Nor anything in the lake attack him...” (468-471).

“[He] swung his sword,
His rink-marked blade, straight at her head;
The iron sang its fierce song,
Sang Beowulf's strength” (475-478).

“...But Beowulf
Longed only for fame, leaped back
Into battle. He tossed his sword aside,
Angry; the steel-edged blade lay where
He'd dropped it. If weapons were useless he'd use
His hands, the strength in his fingers” (485-490).

“...Then the noble protector of all seamen
Swam to land, rejoicing in the heavy
Burdens he was bringing with him. He
And all his glorious band of Geats
Thanks God that their leader had come back unharmed” (578-582).

“And Beowulf uttered his final boast:
'I've never known fear, as a youth I fought
In endless battles. I am old, now,
But I will fight again, seek fame still...” (606-609).