

The Story of Beowulf

Task A: A Chronological Exercise

Beowulf is the Saxon's greatest poem. The Anglo-Saxon people would love to hear it recited at their feasts. The story is told in the boxes below. Read the story carefully as it has been muddled up. You need to cut out each box carefully and paste them in the correct order on another piece of A4 paper. Start your pasting with the box (1)

Task B: A Cross Curricular Exercise

Read the story of Beowulf that you have pasted together in the correct order again. Discuss the different characters in the poem and imagine the scenes from the poem. Now write your own script for a play about Beowulf's adventures that your class could perform for others



Beowulf heard about Grendel. He went to help Hrothgar fight Grendel. He tore Grendel's arm off, but Grendel escaped into the forest and died.



Hrothgar, king of the Danes had feasts at his hall which was called Heorot. The monster Grendel came to Heorot, the men were drunk or asleep. Grendel ate thirty of Hrothgar's men. He kept coming back to eat more men. Hrothgar did not know what to do.



Grendel's mother heard of her son's death. She came to Heorot to avenge her son. She took Hrothgar's best friend away to a haunted lake. Beowulf followed her, he found the head of Hrothgar's friend at the edge of the lake. Grendel's mother was hiding deep in the lake.

Beowulf took 12 men to fight the dragon. He fought the dragon alone. His shield did not stop the dragon's flames. His sword bounced off the dragon's skin. Most of Beowulf's men left him.



After his victory over Grendel's mother Beowulf went to his home. He became King and lived in peace. After many years a runaway slave hid in a burial mound where a fierce dragon lived. The slave stole some treasure from the mound and ran away with it. The dragon was angry and chased the slave. The dragon flew over Beowulf's hall at night. It blew fire at the hall and set fire to the crops and houses.



Beowulf went into the cave. Beowulf's sword Hrunting bounced off Grendel's mother's tough skin. She attacked Beowulf with a deadly knife. Beowulf grabbed a huge sword from the cave wall. He swung the mighty sword and cut off Grendel's mother's head. He had saved Hrothgar's people again.



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Only Wiglaf stayed to fight the dragon with Beowulf, the Dragon sank its teeth into Beowulf's neck. But Beowulf and Wiglaf killed the dragon, then Beowulf died of his wounds. Wiglaf buried Beowulf under a mound. Many Kings brought treasures to put in Beowulf's grave.

Someone gave Beowulf Hrunting, an old sword that had never been beaten. With Hrunting in his hand, Beowulf dived into the black waters of the lake. Many strange creatures tried to grab him. At the bottom of the lake there was a dry cave, Beowulf found Grendel's mother there.

