

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Beowulf- Prologue



Part I

Directions: Answer the following questions, *in complete, detailed sentences utilizing quotes for support.*

1. What made Shield of Sheaf a good king?
2. How is power attained in this culture? How does the attainment of power relate to the themes of the poem?
3. What motifs/symbols are present in the account of Shield's funeral?
4. Who inherits Shield's kingdom, successively? (Name everyone!)
5. Is Hrothgar's early reign as king successful? How is this indicated, and what does it imply?

6. What does the hall that Hrothgar builds symbolize?

7. What is Herot Hall threatened by?

8. Grendel is referred to as a member of “the race of Cain.” What does that mean? How does being a part of it affect Grendel?

Part II – Vocabulary

Directions: *Match the following words with the correct definition.*

- 1. _____ Aghast
- 2. _____ Desolate
- 3. _____ Malignant
- 4. _____ Renege
- 5. _____ Respite
- 6. _____ Scourge

- A. Virulent, infectious
- B. To go back on a promise
- C. Filled with horror or shock
- D. Rest or relief from something exhausting
- E. Bleak, empty, bare
- F. To whip someone as punishment