



W28 Lesson 2: PC6 Revision

NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

Read the **Text** and then answer questions 1 – 8.**Beowulf and the Sea-Hag**

Hrothgar's most favourite lord, Ashhere, had been brutally murdered by the bereaved mother of Grendel. According to the locals, she was a hideous monster as her fiend son, and she had taken revenge on the Thaness, while they had fallen asleep in the dead of the night, for the murder of her son. So, Hrothgar, the Danish king, had sought Beowulf's help to kill Grendel's mother.

So they rode out after her together, Danish king and Geatish hero, their lords and thanes beside them, their shield-bearers marching alongside. It was not difficult to see which way she had gone. Along woodland paths, over the high moors foul with fog they traced her bloody steps, following where had gone before, dragging her bloody victim. The trail narrowed between the cliffs and the path here was tortuous and treacherous. Up over the scree they went then and down again onto the fens, a haunted dreadful place where no one could ever live, nor would ever wish to live.

Sensing danger all about them now Beowulf and his warriors went ahead to scout the land. They came then to a cheerless cluster of ash trees by a rushing stream that tumbled beneath a rocky crag, and beyond that they found a dark, deep lake, stained with blood. And all knew at once whose blood it was. Worse evidence was to come, for they saw left there on the edge of the cliff the most grievous sight, Ashhere's head. Stirred to new fury they let out an eager battle cry, sounded the war-horn loud and long so that the whole world could hear their anger.

Roused and enraged by the challenge of the battle-horn a giant sea-serpent slithered to the surface. They saw now that the lake was teeming with them, and with countless strangely writhing water-snakes too. This place was truly a home of monsters.

Beowulf at once let loose an arrow, the iron tip striking home to its mark, deep in the sea-serpent's throat. Other spears then rained down until the body of this wave-lurker was dragged lifeless to the shore. Grisly, grim and gruesome – no one word could describe this ghoul of the deep. Everyone there was happy to see he was dead, I can tell you. But others were there, skulking shadows of the deep, waiting for Beowulf, waiting for their moment to strike.

Beowulf now made himself ready for the fight that lay ahead of him, putting on first his heavily mailed short, so strong that no enemy could pierce it. On his head he set a splendid silver helmet that would protect him, and ward off the worst of the blows. Wonderfully crafted it was, adorned with gold, richly carved all around with wild boars at bay – so sword-swipe had ever breached its stern defence. Unferth, Hrothgar's herald and counsellor, then handed him a hilted sword – Hrunting, he called it – a sword unlike any other, ancient, tried and tested, wave patterned, iron-edged, imbued over the years with the blood and venom of those it had destroyed. This sword had never failed any hero before. Beowulf clutched it keenly, eager now to face the foe.

1. "Beowulf" is considered one the longest epic poems available.

a. Who is the epic hero in this extract?

.....[1]

Find evidence from the text to support your answer.

.....
.....[1]

b. Who is Ashhere?

.....[1]

2. In paragraph 1, refer to this sentence "*It was not difficult to see which way she had gone.*"

a. What is the effect achieved by this sentence?

.....
.....[1]

b. Who is "*she*" referring to?

.....[1]

3. The narrator uses figurative language to describe the journey they had to take as they followed her.

a. Based on the route that "*she*" had taken, suggest a word or phrase that the narrator had used to allow the readers to imagine it through:

i. their sense of smell

.....

ii. what they saw

.....

iii. their thoughts

.....

iv. alliteration

.....

[4]

- b. Did she travel far? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

Yes ()

No ()

Using your own words, give evidence from the text to explain your answer.

.....
[2]

4. The narrator describes the place where Grendel's mother goes as "*a haunted dreadful place*".

In paragraph 2, he uses figurative language to further emphasise how horrible this place is. Identify each of the following literary devices used, giving quotes from the text and explaining the effects of the device on the readers.

- a. Technique:

Quote:

Effect:

- b. Technique:

Quote:

Effect: [6]

5.

- a. In the sentence, "*Roused and enraged by the challenge of the battle-horn, a giant sea-serpent slithered to the surface*", alliteration has been used. Identify the alliteration used and explain the effect of the language technique.

Phrase:

Effect: [2]

- b. Identify a phrase, in paragraph 5, where a literary device was used to allow the readers to imagine how sinister the place was.

Phrase:

Literary device: [2]

6. With the sea-serpent dead, were Beowulf and then men safe? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

Yes ()

No ()

7. List the **three** items that were used by Beowulf to fight against his enemy.

-
-
-

[3]

8.

a. Name Beowulf's legendary sword.

.....[1]

b. Find a word or a phrase the writer has used for each of the following descriptions:

i. to show that the sword was unique

.....

ii. to show that the sword had been used by others

.....

[2]