

# Enjoy Reading English Tales

Author: Lic. Patricio Calle León TEFL Mst.  
Place and Date: Ecuador, February, 2022

## BEOWULF, THE HERO

*This story, BEOWULF, is an epic poem which is a long poem about a brave hero's deeds.*



Old King **Hrothgar** of Denmark enjoys a prosperous and successful reign. He builds a great hall, called **Heorot**, where his warriors spend long hours drinking and singing. They like to listen to stories sung by the **Scops** who are poets.

But the euphoric noise from Heorot hall angers **Grendel**, a horrible demon that lives in a lake near Hrothgar's kingdom. Grendel terrorizes the Danes, killing them every night. **The Danes** suffer many years of fear, danger, and death at the hands of Grendel.

One day, this bad news arrives to Geatland where a brave warrior called Beowulf lives. He hears about this wicked monster. Then he sails to Denmark with a small company of men, to defeat Grendel.



Beowulf and his warriors are received by King Hrothgar with a great feast. During the welcome party, the terrible Grendel arrives. Beowulf fights him, showing his strength to the demon. As Grendel tries to escape, Beowulf tears the monster's arm off. Mortally wounded, Grendel walks back into the marsh to die.

Overjoyed, Hrothgar gives Beowulf gifts and treasure at a feast in his honor. The warriors sing songs in praise of Beowulf, and the celebration lasts late into the night.

But another danger is approaching. Grendel's mother, an ugly witch, comes to Heorot seeking revenge for her son's death. She murders **Aeschere**, one of Hrothgar's warriors.



Then, the warriors travel to a dark swamp, where Beowulf dives into the water in order to fight Grendel's mother in her underwater lair.

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Beowulf walks like a tiger silently and finds **Grendel's mother** eating a cow. He doesn't wait and catches her by the shoulder, but she escapes.

Next, Beowulf jumps like a tiger and decapitates her with his magic sword called **Hrunting**, and brings her head as a prize to Hrothgar.

*Fifty years last and now Beowulf is an old man spending a pacific life in **Geatland city**.*



One day, in a cave, a slave steals a **Golden harp**, but this harp is protected by a dragon. The dragon wants to find the thief and emerges from the cave and begins to burn and destroy the city.

Seeing his city destroyed, Beowulf, goes to fight the dragon. With the aid of **Wiglaf**, he succeeds in killing the beast, but at a heavy cost. The dragon bites Beowulf in his neck, and its fiery venom kills him.

The warriors find Beowulf dead near the sea.



Funeral pyre

*According to Beowulf's wishes, they have to put his body on an enormous **funeral pyre** and then bury it at the sea.*

## GLOSSARY

1. MARSH: lake



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**READING ACTIVITIES**

## Vocabulary

### 1. Match each word with a sentence.

- |              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Beowulf:  | a) It is a magic sword.             |
| b) Heorot:   | b) It is a great place to have fun. |
| c) Hrunting: | c) He hates the noise and feast.    |
| d) Hrothgar: | d) He is a brave hero of this tale. |
| e) Grendel:  | e) He is the ruler of Denmark.      |

## Close reading

### 2. Complete the sentences.

- a) The Scops
  - b) Grendel
  - c) Beowulf
  - d) Grendel's mother
  - e) Wiglaf

- a) kills the Danes.
- b) spends hours singing good stories.
- c) travels with his warriors to kill the monster.
- d) lives in a marsh.
- e) is Beowulf's friend

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## 3. Answer the questions. Choose the correct answer.

### a) What's a funeral Pyre?

- It is a city
- It is a big boat
- It is a coffin

### b) Who does help Beowulf kill the dragon?

- Aeschere
- Wiglaf
- Old King Hrothgar

### c) Why does Grendel anteriorize people in Denmark?

- Because people make a lot of parties
- Because people kill his mother
- Because people steal the Golden harp

### d) What do the Scops do?

- They like to sing and tell hero's adventures
- They enjoy killing monsters
- They build the Heorot hall