

## ***Beowulf***

(Most questions from *A Study Guide to British Literature*)

\* Most of the questions are not important at all.

1. Why is the story about Sigemund important?
2. Why is the story about Heremod important?
3. Why does Hrothgar's poet sing about Hildeburh's tragedy, the Finnsburg Episode?
4. Describe Grendel's mother.
5. Where do Grendel and his mother live?
6. What is the name of the sword that Beowulf uses to kill Grendel?
7. What does Beowulf say before he goes to slay Grendel's mother?
8. What is unique about the hall that Grendel and his mother dwell in?
9. What does Beowulf carry when he comes out of the mere?
10. What is on the ancient hilt?
11. Why does Hrothgar give the people a talk on the bad king Heremod?
12. What does Beowulf give to the guard of the coast before he departs? What happens to the guard then?
13. Why is Hygd? Who is Modthryh?
14. Beowulf was fostered by his father. Is that of any significance?
15. What kind of man was Beowulf when young?
16. How does he become the king of the Geats?
17. Is the fiery dragon like Grendel?
18. Is the last survivor's speech sad? How so?
19. How do the people anger the fiery dragon?
20. What influence is stronger in Beowulf, the pagan or the Christian?
21. Is Beowulf's reason for attacking the fiery dragon justified?
22. Do you think that Wiglaf is a new "Beowulf"? Why
23. What is the name of the sword that Beowulf uses to kill the dragon?
24. Does Beowulf succeed in killing the dragon? How? Who is with him?
25. In Beowulf's last speech he again touches on treasure. Why is treasure important?
26. Why does Wiglaf reproach those retainers?
27. What, according to Wiglaf, will follow the news of Beowulf's death?
28. Why does Wiglaf digress on the feuds between the Geats and the Swedes?
29. What do you think about the spell which is cast on the treasure?
30. Who is the Geatish woman at the end of Beowulf? What is she doing there?
31. Does Beowulf's funeral remind you of anything at the beginning of the poem?
32. In *Beowulf*, King Hrothgar's great mead-hall Heorot and the cave where Grendel

and his mother hide from the world are symbolic. Does the *Beowulf* poet design these two settings to create conflicted and contrasted thematic notions? (Yes) Please elaborate the reasons.