**“Grendel”**

1. What is the name of the monster that terrorizes the mead hall, Herot? Describe him.
2. What is the subject of the song that men are singing “Loud in that hall?” (Lines 3-14)
3. Why does Grendel invade Herot and attack Hrothgar’s men? What are the warriors doing?
4. What happened in Herot after Grendel’s repeated killing? (L-49: “The beginning might not be the end”)
5. Why can’t Grendel kill King Hrothgar? Cite the line in text.
6. Why are Grendel’s ancestors banished by God? (L 22-23)
7. What universal idea (theme) does Grendel stand for?
8. What does Grendel’s inability to know God’s love suggest about him (L58)

**“Beowulf”**

1. The *Beowulf* poet uses hyperbole (exaggeration) in lines 110-111 to help emphasize Beowulf’s heroism and to give a strong impression of Beowulf. What effect does this kind of exaggeration have on epic poetry?
2. Where are Beowulf and his men heading?
3. How did Beowulf hear about Grendel?
4. What does the author mean when he/she says “Light and life fleeing together?” (L148)
5. Who is Edgetho?
6. Summarize the events leading up to Edgetho’s departure.
7. Hrothgar’s account of the damage Grendel has done (L 210-222) provides many examples of alliteration. Locate and write down lines that contain the repetition of an initial consonant sound.

**“The Battle With Grendel”**

1. Describe how Grendel enters Hrothgar’s Home.
2. In line 270, the kenning “strong-hearted wakeful sleeper” is used. What is this kenning for?
3. In lines 270-285, Beowulf displays the characteristics of an epic hero. How is he described?
4. What are Grendel’s first impressions of Beowulf after they encounter one another? What does Grendel want to do?
5. What is the only thing that can destroy Herot? (L295-305)
6. How does Beowulf defeat the monster Grendel? What symbolic action does Beowulf do after Grendel’s death? Why do you think he does that?
7. Beowulf’s men behaved very differently than the Danes. What is your theory that can explain the difference?

**“Grendel’s Mother”**

1. What does the poet tell us about women warriors in line 400-405?
2. What does Grendel’s mother kill and take from Herot?
3. Why doesn’t Beowulf defend the men in Herot when Grendel’s mother attacks? Cite the line.
4. What else does Grendel’s Mother take from Herot? Why do you think she takes this?
5. In your own words, describe the story of the deer in lines 434-439.

**“The Battle with Grendel’s Mother”**

1. Describe the location where this battle takes place.
2. What is Hrunting? Why is it useless against Grendel’s mother?
3. Why do you think Beowulf has a more difficult time defeating Grendel’s mother?
4. How does Beowulf finally defeat Grendel’s mother?
5. What does Beowulf bring back to King Hrothgar? Why do you think he does this?

**“Beowulf’s Last Battle”**

1. Cite a line that displays that Beowulf is still seeking fame after his death.
2. Why does Beowulf want his friends to “stay close.” (L 624)
3. Why do you think Beowulf keeps fighting? (L 670-671)
4. How is Wiglaf unlike Beowulf’s other subjects? What heroic quality does he demonstrate?
5. In lines 717-723, what does Wiglaf suggest is the reason Beowulf may have failed to live after defeating the dragon?
6. What happens to the dragon and its treasure?

**“The Death of Beowulf/Mourning Beowulf”**

1. What does Beowulf request of Wiglaf as he lies dying?
2. Identify 2 values that were reflected in the speech Beowulf recites before dying and cite the lines.
3. Describe the inside of the dragon’s tower. (L 764-794)
4. What does Beowulf ask Wiglaf to build after his death? How will this help the people?
5. In what sense are Beowulf’s followers traitors? Whom or what have they betrayed?
6. What became of Beowulf’s ashes?