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**Part I**

**GRENDDEL**

# PRE-GRAMMAR | Preparation

*Prepare the student for understanding the Central One Idea  
by drawing upon his or her prior knowledge or experience.*

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1. Briefly (2-3 sentences) tell about a favorite story that you have read or heard that has a monster or villain in it.

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2. Briefly tell about your favorite epic hero. He or she may or may not be a part of the story you described above.

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# GRAMMAR | Presentation

*The student is presented with and discovers essential facts, elements, and features of the poem.*

## READING NOTES

1. **Hrothgar** – king of the Danes; builder of Heorot
2. **Heorot** – the palace of King Hrothgar and the mead hall for the warrior Danes
3. **Beowulf** – warrior and king of the Geats; the hero of the poem
4. **Geats** – Scandinavian people of southern Sweden; Beowulf and his men are Geats
5. **Unferth** – one of Hrothgar’s warriors, who is jealous of Beowulf and challenges his bravery
6. **Wealhtheow** – Hrothgar’s wife and queen
7. **fen** – (p. 2) a low and marshy area of land
8. **moor** – (p. 2) a tract of open, uncultivated land
9. **minstrel** – (p. 2) a medieval singer or musician who sang or recited poetry and whose lyrics told of distant places or existing or imaginary historical events
10. **keel** – (p. 2) the center structure of a ship running lengthwise from bow to stern, to which the frames are attached
11. **mailcoat** – (p. 6) armor made from metal rings, worn like a shirt
12. **sword-hilt** – (p. 10) the handle of a sword
13. **lair** – (p. 12) the den or dwelling of a wild animal

## WORDS TO BE DEFINED

### Definitions Bank

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| a dazed or distressed state   | preoccupied with depressing thoughts             |
| a state of complete emptiness | repayment; compensation                          |
| apart; divided                | rolled the body clumsily                         |
| awakened; stirred up          | stringy, tough                                   |
| confusion, disorder           | the sound made by a clarion (a medieval trumpet) |
| enchanted; entranced          | to be of use; to help                            |
| extremely hungry; voracious   | uninvited  |
| not quenched; not satisfied   |  |

1. **Unbidden**, unheralded, so boldly trespass here? (p. 5)  
uninvited
2. In mournful state upon his throne sat **brooding** (p. 8)  
preoccupied with depressing thoughts

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the things Hrothgar gave to his warriors at feasting time for their bravery and loyalty to him?

*“rings and ornaments and bracelets of bright gold, cunningly wrought, graved with runes and deeds of dead heroes” (p. 2)*

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2. In the halls of Heorot, what did they enjoy with their feasting?

high fellowship; story and song; mead and revelry (p. 2)

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3. Find two lines with strong **alliteration** that stand out to you, and write them below. (You may not use any mentioned in the Introduction.)

There are many, many lines with alliteration because it's the principle poetic device.

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4. For how many years did Grendel attack Heorot? 12 years

5. Give one key **epithet** or descriptive detail about Beowulf.

*“A youth of valiance abounding”; “mightiest yet mildest of men” (p. 4)*

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6. How many warriors did Beowulf take with him to Denmark? 14

7. Find one **kenning** from Part I and explain what it means. (You may not use any mentioned in the Introduction.)

Wave-roar (p. 5) (And there are probably some others in this section.)

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8. Give some details about how Beowulf and his men were dressed when they arrived.

In shining armor: *“The boar-head glared from their helmets, the iron rings rang on their mailcoats.” (p. 6)*

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# LOGIC | Dialectic

*The student reasons with the facts, elements, and features of the poem and begins to uncover and determine the Central One Idea.*

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## SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What three things specifically does Grendel hate about Heorot?

The sound of the harp, the minstrel's song, the bold merriment of men (p. 2)

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2. The text also mentions a *psychological* reason that Grendel might hate the men of Heorot so much. What is this reason? In your answer, include the line from the text that seems to suggest this.

"In whose distorted likeness he was shaped / Twice six feet tall ..." (p. 2) This seems to imply that Grendel hates them because he is a distorted and ugly version of man.

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3. In a moral or theological sense, how does the poet describe Grendel and/or where does the poet say Grendel comes from?

"That fiend from hell, foul enemy of God" (p. 12)

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4. "But the hero rejoiced in his triumph and wildly waved/In the air his blood-soaked trophy. And the sun, /God's beacon of brightness, banishing night, /Made glad the sky of morning." (pp. 13-14) How does the **personification** of the sun and sky support the **Central One Idea**?

It seems that Beowulf the hero is also God's beacon of brightness, banishing the night (evil) from Heorot.

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# RHETORIC | Expression

*The student explains in his or her own words the Central One Idea with supporting details.*

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## 1 CENTRAL ONE IDEA

1. In a sentence or two, **summarize** the **plot** of Part I.

The hero Beowulf sails from Geatland to Denmark to fight the notorious monster Grendel,  
whom he defeats barehanded, thus saving Hrothgar and the Danes from evil and increasing his  
glory and fame.

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2. Write the Central One Idea of Part I in a complete sentence.

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3. List three or four features of the poem that support your determination of the Central One Idea.

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## 1 CENTRAL ONE IDEA (as expressed by the teacher)

With honor, courage, and trust in God, good can overcome evil.

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