

Tapestry of Grace Year 2
Rhetoric Literature
Assignment Due: Co-op #2 (September 1)

Read Words of Delight p. 107-109 – review the definitions & different types of heroes. Is Beowulf a hero according to Ryken's definition? If so, to which category does he belong? Idealized, tragic, comic, or realistic?

What does Ryken say about the relationship between a culture and its heroes (108)? Does the story of Beowulf support Ryken's ideas, or could it be used as an objection?

Read Norton's introduction to Beowulf – about 4 pages

Read *Beowulf* (translation Seamus Heaney). (Mrs. Redel says the tales inserted into the story do not have to be read or studied)

This translation is in audiobook on YouTube with the author reading it in his wonderful accent☺ The reading is abridged, so there will be chunks left out, but the most important parts are there.

Pt 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaB0trCztM0>

Pt. 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsxxg5P-DnY>

We DO NOT RECOMMEND the most recent movie version of this book. Not accurate or appropriate.

Note: the first Beowulf mentioned is not the hero.

Create a running vocabulary list in the Vocabulary section of your notebook.
Copy these terms and definitions onto your own paper:

*Alliteration: The repetition of the initial sound of words in a line or lines of verse.

*Allusion: A reference to history or literature: people, ideas, places, etc.

*Elegiac mode: A style of writing which produces an atmosphere or tone of lament and mourning, and is usually concerned with praising the loved one who has died.

*Kenning: A compound of two words in place of another as when sea becomes "whale-road" or body is called "life-house".

1. This work is called the English epic. In what ways is Beowulf an epic? – may need to look in your notes from last year☺ The author would have most likely have had access to *The Aeneid* but not the Greek epics.

In what ways does it NOT fulfill requirements or seem like epics already known to you?

2. One of the key poetic features is alliteration. Find three lines in Beowulf that demonstrate alliteration. For example:

“telling with mastery of man’s beginnings,
how the Almighty had made the earth,
a gleaming plain girdled with waters;
His splendor He set the sun and the moon
To be earth’s lamplight, lanterns for men. . . .”

a.

b.

c.

3. Find several examples of kennings and be prepared to share.

4. What is the worldview of the poet? What shows Christian influences even if the characters and basic story is pagan? Does the name of Jesus need to be mentioned for the poem to be called Christian?

5. Take a shot at figuring out the theme or main message that the author wants to communicate. (Hint: It is during Hrothgar's speech passing wisdom onto Beowulf)(Lines 1722-1784)

How is this different than themes in Homer, Virgil, or the Greek plays?

6. Thethane-lord relationship is emphasized (in both Norton intro to book and the work itself). Do you think some form of this relationship is still present today?