

Answer the questions in your notebook. Cite text evidence to explain and justify your reasoning.

## Response

- 1. Personal Connections** Which episode of this epic poem did you find most—or least—interesting or exciting? Why?

## Comprehension

- 2. Reading Check** (a) Where does Beowulf come from, and why does he travel to Herot? (b) Where does the battle with Grendel's mother take place, and what is the outcome? (c) What is the result of Beowulf's battle with the dragon?
- 3. Strategy: Paraphrase** (a) Which passages did you paraphrase as you read? (b) What complexities in the text did paraphrasing help you clarify? Explain.

## Analysis

- 4. Make Inferences** What do Beowulf's motives for traveling to Herot suggest about his character? Cite at least two pieces of text evidence that support your understanding.
- 5. Analyze** How does the contrast between Grendel and Beowulf turn their conflict into a clash between good and evil? Explain, citing evidence from the poem.
- 6. Compare and Contrast** How is Beowulf's fight with the dragon similar to his two previous battles? How is it different?
- 7. (a) Analyze** Which details show the importance of Christian beliefs? **(b) Analyze** Which details reveal pagan values, such as a belief in fate, a pride in loyalty, and a desire for fame? **(c) Draw Conclusions** What can you conclude about this mix of Christian and pagan details?
- 8. Analyze Anglo-Saxon Literature** Explain how the poem, by keeping Beowulf's memory alive, also keeps Anglo-Saxon culture and values alive.

### EQ NOTES

### INTERACTIVITY

#### How important are heroes to the world?

What have you learned about heroes and heroism by reading this epic poem? Go to your Essential Question Notes and record your observations and thoughts about the excerpt from *Beowulf*.

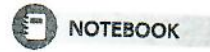
#### B.E.S.T.

- K12.EE.1.1:** Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.
- K12.EE.3.1:** Make inferences to support comprehension.
- 12.R.1.4:** Evaluate works of major poets in their historical context.
- 12.R.3.2:** Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.





INTERACTIVITY



NOTEBOOK

## Literary / Text Elements

**Poetic Form and Dramatic Structure** An **epic** is a long narrative poem that celebrates heroic deeds and legendary events. It centers on the exploits of an epic hero who possesses great strength, cleverness, and leadership abilities. The use of poetic form and dramatic structures serves to intensify the drama:

- **Episodic Structure:** unfolds in sections, or *episodes*, providing audiences with a series of tales
- **Extreme Conflicts:** centers on conflicts that threaten the very survival of a people or nation, heightening the suspense the audience experiences
- **Archetypal Plot Patterns:** features patterns of events that recur in literature from all cultures and times, and reflect universal human concerns; in *Beowulf*, one such archetype is the quest.
- **Dramatic Diction:** features serious, elevated language; long speeches often suggest an impressive formality as do catalogs (lists) of battles, weapons, and treasure.
- **Poetic Form:** intensifies setting and mood through the use of rhythm, repetition, sensory language, and figurative language

**PRACTICE** Answer these items.

1. **(a) Analyze** List two characteristics that make *Beowulf* an epic hero. **(b) Distinguish** Identify a passage that shows the hero's more human side. Explain your choice.
2. **(a) Analyze** Identify conflicts that drive the epic narrative: one that is personal to *Beowulf* and one that is critical for the Danes as a people. **(b) Connect** In what ways are these conflicts also archetypal, or universal to all people and cultures?
3. **Interpret** Consider the poem's episodic structure. Explain how each creature *Beowulf* battles adds a new dimension to the story's overall conflicts. Complete a chart like the one shown to gather your ideas.

EPISODE	CONFLICT	NEW DIMENSION
The Coming of <i>Beowulf</i>		
The Battle With Grendel		

4. **Draw Conclusions** In what ways does the dramatic, episodic structure of the epic contribute to its power? Explain.
5. **(a) Analyze** What purposes are served by *Beowulf*'s long speech in lines 237–282? For example, consider how the speech develops the hero's character or establishes the story's conflicts. **(b) Interpret** In what ways does the speech exemplify the epic convention of dramatic diction? Explain, citing specific textual details.
6. **Evaluate** Would *Beowulf* be as effective if it were written in plain prose rather than in poetic form? Why, or why not?

### KEY CONCEPT

The **epic hero** is a larger-than-life figure who is stronger, faster, and braver than all others. The hero may be flawed, but his or her character is an expression of a culture's deepest values, the qualities the people who first told the tale most admire.