

Assignment 01

Read lines 1-63, 64-193 from *Beowulf* and answer the following questions:

1. At the time of *Beowulf* was composed, how was the poem likely shared?
2. In *Beowulf*, what evidence is provided that Hrothgar's lineage is renowned for great and heroic deeds?
3. A kenning is a metaphorical compound word or phrase in Old English poetry. It takes the place of a simple noun. For example, "storm of swords" is kenning for "battle". What does the kenning "whale-road" in line 10 stand for?
4. Who rules Geatland at the beginning of the poem?
5. What is heorot (herot)?
6. The first night that Grendel attacked heorot, how many Shieldings (Ring-Danes) did he kill and for how long did he attack the royal hall?
7. *Beowulf* was composed by what ancient culture?
8. Write examples of alliteration (repetition of consonant sounds at the beginnings of words) in the lines you read.