

Learning "Beowulf"

Be sure you can answer the following questions. They are not comprehensive but nonetheless can serve as a good study guide.

1. What is a scop?
2. Name one datable historical event in the text.
3. Who is Wiglaf?
4. Name four episodes that are considered textual "digressions."
5. What is wergild?
6. Name the sword given to Beowulf by Unferth.
7. What is the name of another sword used later by Beowulf?
8. Why does Beowulf owe Hrothgar a favor?
9. How does Hygelac become king of the Geats?
10. How does Beowulf later become king?
11. Who does Grendel's mother kill?
12. Who is Finn?
13. What gift does Beowulf present to Hygd.
14. "The sword rests but a little while even though the bride is good." Which character does this line describe?
15. Whom does Beowulf challenge in a swimming match?
16. What is done with the dragon's hoard at the end of the text?
17. What initially causes the dragon to attack?
18. Who is Ongeantheow's slayer?
19. What is the name of Hrothgar's hall?
20. What later happens to the hall, and why?