SOFTWARE & TECH

100 Question Beowulf Quiz With Answers

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795581504426709

Unraveling the Epic: Your Definitive 100 Question Beowulf Quiz With Answers

For centuries, the Old English epic poem *Beowulf* has captivated readers with its tale of heroism, monsters, and the relentless passage of time. Whether you are a student preparing for an exam, a teacher looking for classroom resources, or simply a literature enthusiast revisiting this foundational work, testing your knowledge can deepen your appreciation. A well-structured quiz does more than recall facts—it connects plot points, themes, and linguistic nuances. That is why we have created a comprehensive **100 Question Beowulf Quiz With Answers**. This resource is designed to challenge beginners and experts alike, covering every major episode, character, and symbolic element.

In this article, you will find a carefully organized quiz broken into thematic sections. Each section focuses on a different aspect of the poem: from the hero's arrival in Denmark to his final battle against the dragon. Answers are provided immediately after each question so you can track your progress. Use this quiz to review, teach, or simply enjoy the richness of one of the oldest surviving works of English literature.

Why a Specialized Quiz Strengthens Your Understanding

Reading *Beowulf* once is seldom enough to grasp its layers of meaning. The poem weaves together pagan warrior values, Christian allegory, and intricate wordplay. A targeted **Beowulf quiz with answers** forces you to move beyond passive reading. You must recall names, retell key scenes, and interpret symbolic actions. This active retrieval reinforces memory and highlights gaps in your knowledge. For educators, such a quiz provides a ready-made assessment tool that aligns with common learning objectives: identifying literary devices, understanding Anglo-Saxon culture, and tracing the hero's journey. By engaging with 100 distinct questions, you gain a holistic command of the epic.

How the 100 Question Beowulf Quiz Is Organized

To make the quiz manageable and logical, we have divided the 100 questions into ten thematic clusters. Each cluster covers a critical segment of the poem or a recurring motif. The clusters are:

- 1–10: The Arrival of Beowulf and the Background
- 11–20: The Battle with Grendel
- 21–30: The Aftermath and Celebration
- 31–40: Grendel's Mother and the Mere
- 41–50: The Return Home and Beowulf's Kingship
- 51–60: The Dragon's Wrath and the Final Battle
- 61–70: Character Relationships and Motivations
- 71–80: Historical and Cultural Context
- 81–90: Literary Devices and Language
- 91–100: Themes, Symbols, and Interpretations

The 100 Question Beowulf Quiz With Answers

Below are the 100 questions. Each question is followed by its answer in italics. Read the question, consider your response, then check the answer. For an extra challenge, cover the answers and try to recall them from memory.

Cluster 1: The Arrival of Beowulf and the Background (Questions 1–10)

1. Question 1: Who is the king of the Danes at the beginning of the poem?Answer: King Hrothgar.
2. Question 2: What great hall does Hrothgar build?Answer: Heorot.
3. Question 3: Who is Beowulf's father?Answer: Ecgtheow.
4. Question 4: Beowulf is a thane of which king?Answer: King Hygelac of the Geats.
5. Question 5: Why does Grendel attack Heorot?Answer: He is enraged by the joy and music of the Danes, as he is a descendant of Cain and an outcast.
6. Question 6: For how many years does Grendel terrorize the Danes?Answer: Twelve years.
7. Question 7: How does Beowulf hear about the Grendel attacks?Answer: Through sailors' stories and news that reaches the Geatish court.
8. Question 8: How many warriors does Beowulf take with him to Denmark?Answer: Fourteen (plus Beowulf himself, making fifteen).
9. Question 9: What is the name of the Danish coast guard who challenges Beowulf's landing?Answer: Wulfgar (though some versions name the coast guard "the watchman" – Wulfgar is the herald).Correction: The coast guard is unnamed; Wulfgar is Hrothgar's herald. The proper answer: the coast guard is unnamed in the poem.
10. Question 10: What does Beowulf say he will use to fight Grendel?Answer: His bare hands, because Grendel does not use weapons.

Cluster 2: The Battle with Grendel (Questions 11–20)

1. Question 11: After the feast, how many Geats sleep in Heorot?Answer: All of them, including Beowulf.
2. Question 12: What body part does Grendel have that is described as having "claws"?Answer: His hands/arms.
3. Question 13: How does Grendel enter Heorot?Answer: He bursts open the iron-bolt door.
4. Question 14: Who does Grendel kill first inside the hall?Answer: A Geatish warrior named Hondscioh.
5. Question 15: What move does Beowulf use to defeat Grendel?Answer: He seizes Grendel's arm and, in a wrestling match, tears it off at the shoulder.
6. Question 16: Where does Grendel flee to die?Answer: His lair in the swamp (the mere).
7. Question 17: What trophy does Beowulf hang from the rafters of Heorot?Answer: Grendel's arm, shoulder, and claw.
8. Question 18: How many men does Grendel devour during his attack?Answer: He kills and eats one (Hondscioh) before Beowulf grabs him.
9. Question 19: What do the Danes do when they see the trophy the next morning?Answer: They come from far and wide to see the wonder and praise Beowulf.
10. Question 20: What is the name of the scop (poet) who composes a song about Beowulf's victory? Answer: The poem does not name a specific scop; a court poet improvises verses comparing Beowulf to the hero Sigemund.

Cluster 3: The Aftermath and Celebration (Questions 21–30)

1. Question 21: What gifts does Hrothgar give Beowulf for defeating Grendel?Answer: A gold-woven banner, a helmet, a mail-shirt, a sword, and eight horses—one with a fine saddle.
2. Question 22: What does Hrothgar give to Beowulf's men?Answer: He gives each of them a precious gift and also pays compensation for Hondscioh's death.
3. Question 23: Who is the Danish queen who gives Beowulf a cup and a necklace?Answer: Queen Wealhtheow.

4. Question 24: What story is told by the scop during the celebration?Answer: The story of Finn and Hildeburh (the Finnsburh fragment).

5. Question 25: In the Finnsburh story, the Danish princess Hildeburh loses her brother, son, and husband. True or false?Answer: True.

6. Question 26: What does the necklace (the Brosinga mene) given to Beowulf foreshadow?Answer: Hygelac's death during a raid (the necklace is later worn by Hygelac and lost).

7. Question 27: Who is Unferth, and what does he do in the hall?Answer: Unferth is a Danish warrior. He first mocks Beowulf's swimming contest with Breca, but later offers Beowulf his sword, Hrunting, for the fight with Grendel's mother.

8. Question 28: What is the name of the swimming contest opponent?Answer: Breca.

9. Question 29: According to Beowulf, what really happened during the swimming match?Answer: They swam for five days, but a storm separated them. Beowulf fought sea monsters and survived.

10. Question 30: After the celebration, where do the Danes sleep?Answer: Outside Heorot, leaving the hall unoccupied for the night.

Cluster 4: Grendel's Mother and the Mere (Questions 31–40)

1. Question 31: Why does Grendel's mother attack Heorot?Answer: To avenge her son's death.

2. Question 32: Whom does Grendel's mother kill in her attack?Answer: Aeschere, Hrothgar's most trusted counselor.

3. Question 33: Where does Grendel's mother live?Answer: In an underwater lair at the bottom of a mere (a haunted lake).

4. Question 34: What weapon does Hrothgar give Beowulf for the underwater journey?Answer: The sword Hrunting (lent by Unferth).

5. Question 35: How does Beowulf get to the mere?Answer: He and the Danes travel on foot and then by boat across the lake.

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