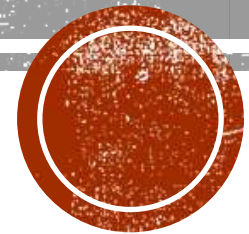


REVIEW OF EPIC BEGINNINGS

This presentation will review key concepts of epic poetry, *Gilgamesh* and as well as material covered in your Edgenuity course. *Beowulf*,



WHAT IS AN EPIC?

- Epic Poem
 - Is a long poem that tells a story.
 - Oral tradition
- Features of an epic poem:
 1. Courageous hero who answers a call to adventure
 2. A journey filled with many challenges
 3. A vast setting of distant landscapes
 4. Supernatural forces, such as gods or monsters, that intervene

- Structure of an Epic:

- Use of poetic verse
- Narrative voice that tells the story
- Descriptive details
- Compelling speeches
- Use of repetition
 - Repetition allows the poets to remember and retell
 - Helps the audience absorb the poem
 - Creates rhythmic pattern
 - Emphasizes important ideas



CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EPIC HERO

- Archetype (character with defining features)
- Has characteristics that are admirable
- Is a strong leader/warrior
- Compelling and confident speaker
- Demonstrates courage and takes risk
- Embarks on a long, challenging journey
- Proves triumphant in battle
- Receives help from a supernatural power



LET'S REVIEW.

Excerpt:

*At four hundred miles they stopped to eat,
at a thousand miles they pitched their camp.
They had traveled for just three days and nights,
a six weeks' journey for ordinary men.
When the sun was setting, they dug a well,
they filled their waterskins with fresh water,
Gilgamesh climbed to the mountaintop,
he poured out flour as an offering and said,
"Mountain, bring me a favorable dream."*

Which characteristic of an epic hero is most reflected in this excerpt?

- A. the ability to persuade others through speech
- B. the ability to act as a strong warrior and leader
- C. the courage to embark on a challenging journey
- D. the courage to undertake life-threatening risks

The correct answer is "C": *"At four hundred miles they stopped to eat, at a thousand miles they pitched their camp.
They had traveled for just three days and nights, a six weeks' journey for ordinary men."*



REVIEW AGAIN!

- Read the excerpt:

Enkidu said, "Don't worry, my friend, the dream you had is a favorable one.

The eagle that you saw, with a lion's head, stands for Humbaba.

Though it dived straight toward you and terrifying flames shot from its mouth, nothing could cause you harm.

The young man who came to your rescue was our lord, Shamash.

He will stand beside us when the monster attacks.

Whatever happens, we will prevail!"

Which statement best describes the epic feature used in this excerpt and its effect on the plot?

- A. The difficult journey that Gilgamesh must undertake causes him to feel defeated.
- B. The vast landscape that Gilgamesh must travel through adds tension to the plot.
- C. The intervention of the supernatural gives Gilgamesh hope that he will defeat Humbaba.
- D. The narrative voice of the epic poem makes it difficult for the audience to relate to Gilgamesh.



IMPORTANT LITERARY ELEMENTS

- Theme: universal message about a text or topic.
 - A theme can be applied to any text.
 - A theme is **not** specific to a text or reference a character, idea or event from a text.
- Typical themes in an epic:
 - Leadership
 - Loyalty
 - Perseverance
 - Mortality
 - Personal growth
 - Fame and glory
- Characterization: how the character is presented and developed.
- To analyze a character, look for:
 - How the text described the character
 - How the character acts
 - What the character thinks or says
 - What others think about the character
- Always provide textual evidence or support for your analysis



HISTORICAL INFORMATION

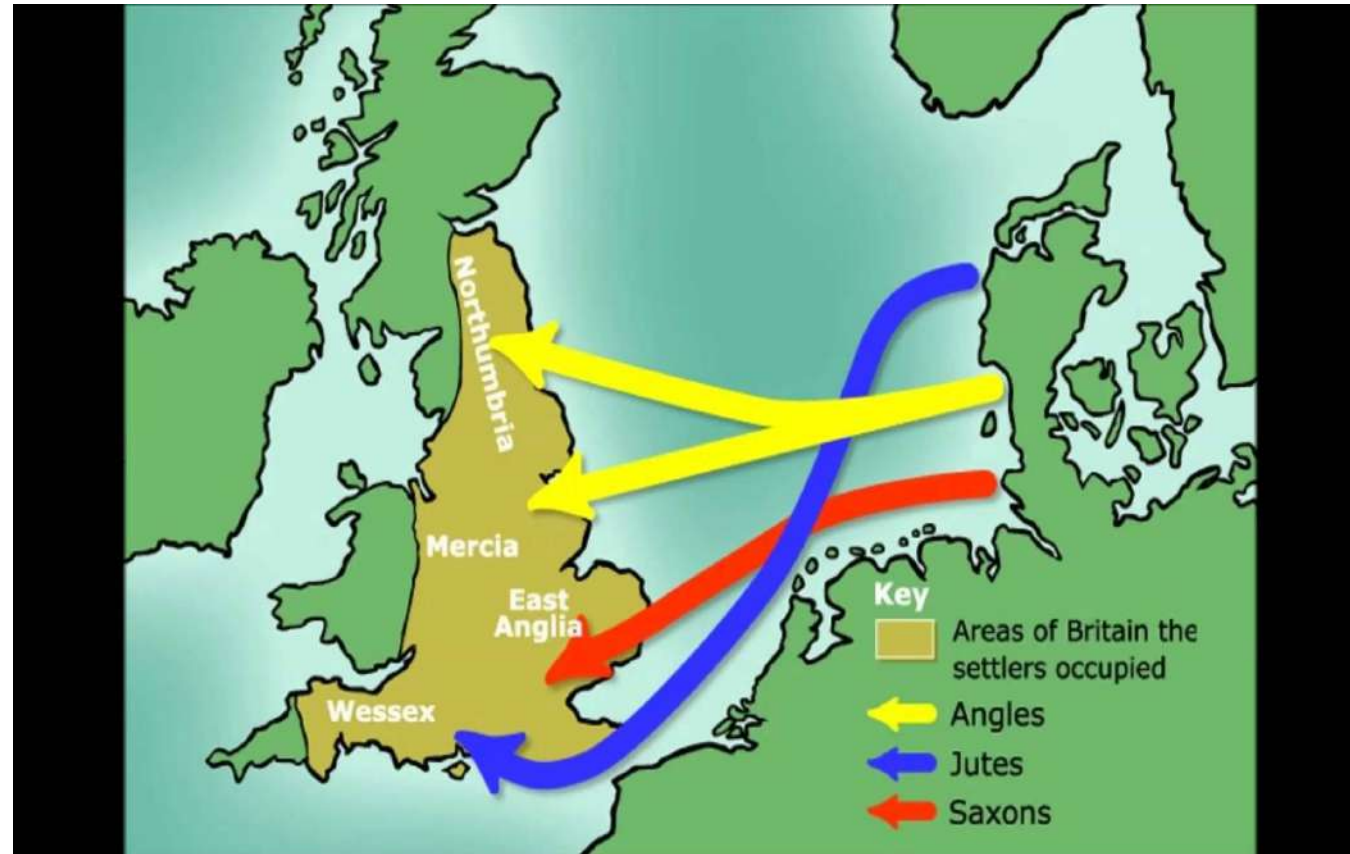
THE ANGLES AND THE SAXONS

1871 – Alfred the Great became King of Wessex

-united the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms

Encouraged education

Believed in Christianity



In 1066, William of Normandy conquers England. (French influence)



ANGLO-SAXON CULTURE



1. Warrior Tribes

- A warrior was a hero to his people
- A hero had to be strong, intelligent, and courageous
- A hero had to be willing to face any odds, even fight to the death,
- A hero had to be physically powerful, strong.



2. Lords (Kings) and Thanes (Warriors)

- Kings provided lands, weapons to warriors in exchange for their loyalty and protection.

3. Feasts and Hospitality

- A large hall was often the central location for warriors to celebrate battles won, or commune together before going off to war.



4. Gift Giving

- Lords (Kings) were expected to bestow gifts upon his thanes (warriors) for their successes in battle
- Warriors would bring their King treasures won during battle or raid.



WHICH FEATURE OF ANGLO-SAXON CULTURE IS REFLECTED...

Read the passage:

*So the Helming woman went on her rounds,
queenly and dignified, decked out in rings,
offering the goblet to all ranks,
treating the household and the assembled
troop
until it was Beowulf's turn to take it from her
hand.*

- A Christian tradition
- A cup-bearer
- A gift-giving
- A Pagan tradition

Read the passage:

*Then it was like old times in the echoing hall,
proud talk and the people happy,
loud and excited; until soon enough
Halfdane's heir had to be away
to his nights rest. He realized
that the demon was going to descent on the hall,
that he had plotted all day, from dawn-light
until darkness gathered again over the world
and stealthy night-shapes came stealing forth
under the cloud murk.*

- Feasting
- laughing
- Relaxing
- worrying



PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

Pagan Beliefs in Beowulf

- Worship of many Gods
- Belief in fate (wyrd)
- Belief in the supernatural, such as dragons, monsters,
- Belief that fame was the only form of immortality

Christian Beliefs in Beowulf

- Belief in only one God
- Belief in a rewarding afterlife
- Gives thanks to God for help in battle



Interpreting *Beowulf*

Read the passage from *Beowulf* and choose the best answer.

“It bothers me to have to burden anyone with all the grief Grendel has caused and the havoc he has wreaked up us in Heorot, our humiliations. My household-guard are on the wane, fate sweeps them away into Grendel’s clutches –

but God can easily

halt these raids and harrowing attacks!”

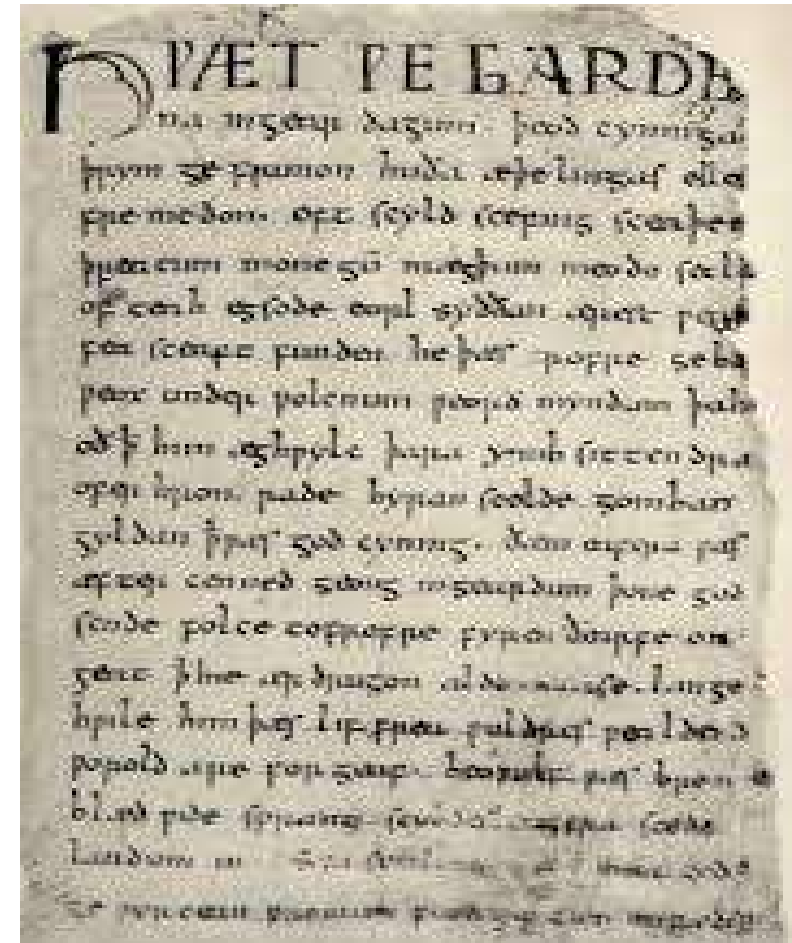
Which interpretation of *Beowulf* does the passage best support?

- When studying *Beowulf*, the reader experiences gift-giving and hospitality prominent in Anglo-Saxon culture.
- One thing the reader should note when studying Anglo-Saxon culture in *Beowulf* is the way lords and thanes interact.
- While reading *Beowulf*, the reader encounters aspects of Anglo-Saxon culture such as Christian and Pagan beliefs.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION: BEOWULF, THE EPIC

- The Text
 - It is a heroic epic poem!
 - Written about 1000 A.D.
 - Story takes place in late 5th Century
 - Written in Old English
 - A language used by Anglo-Saxons from 500-1100 A.D.
 - Has been translated numerous times
 - One original copy exists in the British Library



THE PLOT: BEOWULF



1. King Hrothgar is leader of the Danes.



2. His hall, Herot, is under attack by a monster named Grendel.



3. Beowulf hears of what this monster is doing to King Hrothgar's kingdom and decides to come to their rescue.



4. Beowulf not only kills Grendel, but also defeats his mother (who is also a monster).

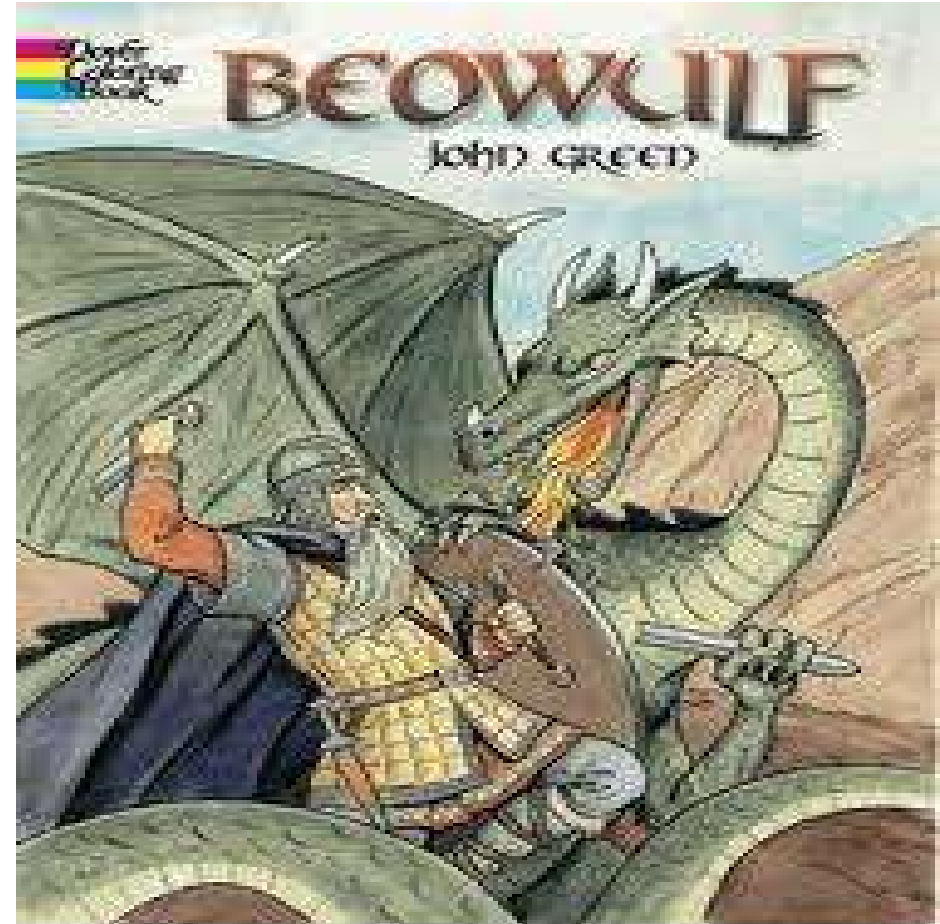


5. Beowulf becomes King of Geats and slays a dragon.



LITERARY CHARACTERISTICS OF BEOWULF

- **Alliteration:** Two or more words begin with the same consonant sound.
 - **Example:**
 - “Long while of the day/ **fled** ere he **felt** the **floor** of the **sea**./ **Soon** **found** the **fiend** who the **flood**-domain **sword**-**hungry** **held** these **hundred** winters...”



MAKING INFERENCES

- What is an inference?
 - is a conclusion that can be drawn based on evidence in a text.
 - When a text is unfamiliar, we can make inferences as we are reading in order to understand the world of the poem better.
 - All inferences must be supported by textual evidence.

Watch the following Dorito's commercial and think about the following questions:

1. What did the dog do?
2. How do you know the dog killed the cat?
3. Why did the dog give the man a bag of chips?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ4K-TZXt7E>



LET'S PRACTICE!

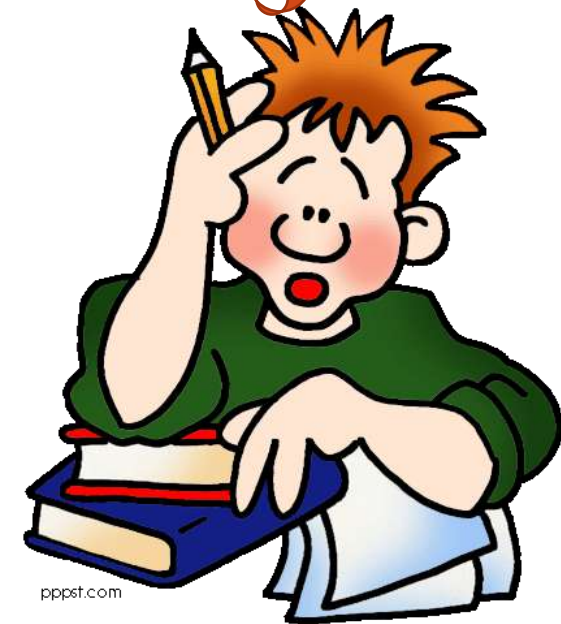
Read the passage, then choose which sentence best support the inference to the right.

Beowulf, Ecgtheow's son replied:

*“Well, friend Unferth, you have had your say
About Breca and me But it was mostly beer
That was doing the talking. The truth is this:
When the going was heavy in those high waves,
I was the strongest swimmer of all.
We'd been children together and w grew up
Daring ourselves to outdo each other,
boasting and urging each other to risk
Out lives on the sea.*

- The truth is this: when the going was heavy in those high waves, I was the strongest swimmer of all.
- We'd been children together and we grew up daring ourselves to outdo each other, boasting and urging each other to risk our lives on the sea.
- But it was mostly beer that was doing the talking.

Inference:
Even though he is a warrior, Beowulf often uses diplomacy instead of rushing to anger and aggression.



pppst.com



Another practice question...

Wealhtheow came in,
Hrothgar's queen, observing the courtesies.
adorned in her gold, she graciously saluted
the men in the hall, then handed the cup
first to Hrothgar, their homeland's guardian,
urging him to drink deep and enjoy it
because he was dear to them. And he drank it down
like the warlord he was, with festive cheer.
So the Helming woman went on her rounds,
queenly and dignified, decked out in rings,
offering the goblet to all ranks,
treating the household and the assembled troop
until it was Beowulf's turn to take it from her hand.
With measured words she welcomed the Geat
and thanked God for granting her wish
that a deliverer she could believe in would arrive
to ease their afflictions.

Which inference is supported by the passage?

- Wealhtheow is more interested in wealth and power than she is in the safety of her people.
- Wealhtheow is not pleased that Beowulf and his men have arrived to fight Grendel.
- Wealhtheow is nervous speaking in front of Beowulf and his men because she is afraid of them.
- Wealhtheow has not been impressed by the men who have fought Grendel up to this point.

