

## Grendel--Civilization vs. Monstrosity: Shaper vs. Reality GW 1 (chapters 2 & 3)

In *Grendel*, there are several times when the title character observes and criticizes what he sees as the thoughtless violence of humans. Yet, he also ravages the land with his violence. **TIMEKEEPERS are crucial here!**

1. Find at least two examples in the text of violent actions for Grendel and for men and give their respective reasoning (or lack of it) for committing those acts (remember to cite page numbers). Try to find actions **that parallel** (Grendel & Men) each other – if you can, put them across from each other and indicate “y” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column. Write columns on your groups paper recreating the following headings. Leave enough space so you can get more examples if you finish the rest of this group work...

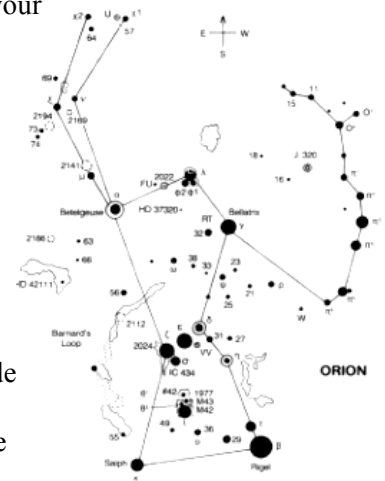
Grendel’s violent actions and reasons	Men’s violent actions and reasons (especially Hrothgar’s)	Parallel Actions? (Y/N)
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2. How are men and Grendel different in the reasons for why they act so violently? (Use your answers from above to help explain) How are they the same? Be specific. Whose reasons does your group see as being more justifiable? Use a total of 3 quotes in your answer.

3. Big Question: In *Beowulf*, how does the scop detail the wars of men? Is it the same as *Grendel’s* version of the same thing? Why or why not? (Give me one specific example comparing the two) How does *Beowulf* (you need your text for this one) describe Grendel’s violence? Is the description the same as in *Grendel*? Why or why not? (Give me one specific example comparing the two). Remember the quote we discussed on page 6 – “Do not think my brains...” Work this quote and its implications (see your notes) in to your answer.

4. How does Grendel describe the Shaper (Cite four specific examples (good time to divide the quote finding among your members) ---your answers should be specific)?

- When the Shaper talks of deeds of war against other groups, how does he describe Hrothgar’s Danes?
- When the Shaper talks of the destruction of Grendel, what does he say?



5. Now, How does this affect Grendel’s view of the Shaper? (see question 4)

6. Look quickly at your answers to questions 1-5: Why does Gardner (Grendel) call the scop a “shaper” What is he shaping?

**7. Timekeepers-Make sure you have at least 10 or more minutes for this question!**

Closely examine these 2 quotes both spoken by Grendel:

A. “Talking, talking. Spinning a web of words, pale walls of dreams, between myself and all I see.” (Page 8)

B. “Stars, spattered out through lifeless night from end to end like jewels scattered...tease, torment my wits toward meaningful patterns that do not exist.” (Page 11)

*How is Grendel his own Shaper?* How does he reject that “shaping” (See notes on chapters 1 and what you wrote in your books). Be specific and complete in your answer – use the two quotes above (A & B) in formulating your answer and try and find and use at least one more quote as well.

### Any time left or on your own (yes, you are responsible for knowing this for the exam)

You may have noticed that there are usually pictures on these group works – it is very rare indeed that I will directly explain their significance and yet they usually form what I hope is another layer of thought and critical thinking with regard to what you are working on. Consider the pictures on this page – how do they fit in, both obviously & subtly with your questions? Remember, the Scop (Shaper) not only uses words, but he strums a harp as well – why & how does it affect the story – and what does that have to do with these pictures?