

Grendel - Group Work #2 - The Shaper, The Dragon, The Monster



This is a very different kind of group work. You must not only supply the answers but you must supply the FOCUS and/or questions as well.

This group work begins by you working ALONE (for 12 minutes). In addition to your group number, you will be given a letter – start your close reading of these quotes as follows – **A: Box 1 to Box 2 | B: Box 1 to Box 3 | C: Box 2 to Box 3.** **Everyone** should look at “Autowreck” and the Shakespeare quote. Time yourself to finish **at least your boxes** and “**Autowreck.**” When you go over each of these boxes – consult your notes, your books, and your brain. Write on this sheet – draw arrows between connections, highlight (remember if you highlight – write something down next to it as well), fill this paper with your comments. Each box is centered on a certain theme or idea. If you finish your two boxes, the Shakespeare quote & “Autowreck” then look at everything else on this sheet.

For the second part of the period you will get together in a group (if I don't put you in a group – get in a group of 3-4 people – NO MORE) and share what you came up with – write it up in one paper, highlighting what your group sees as the biggest connections between the boxes and between all of the boxes

taken as a whole. Get as much done (as specifically as possible) as you can, staple these sheets (**with each of your names on them**) to your group's write up of the connections (put your group's writeup on top – with all your group members and the period in the right hand corner). IF I am NOT in class give work to the sub – if there is no sub – put this in my mailbox.

Be sure and try and consider the pictures – and all of their implications – together & apart, and to work up that discussion into your group's writeup.

Box 1

"The world is all pointless accident, I say." -GRENDEL

"I knew what I knew, the mindless, mechanical bruteness of things (see ∞)" - GRENDEL

≈"Dragons don't mess with your piddling free will." - DRAGON

"They only think they think." - DRAGON

"they rush across chasms on spiderwebs." - DRAGON

"They sense...from time to time...that all they live by is nonsense (see →) - DRAGON

"The laws of nature are large average effects which reign impersonally. But (see ⇒) DRAGON

"he [the shaper] had made it all seem true and very fine - Grendel (see box 2)

see "Auto Wreck"



Box 2

"the man [shaper] had changed the world, had torn up the past by its thick, gnarled roots and had transmuted it, and they, who knew the truth, remembered it his way" - GRENDEL

"I knew them...yet the things he said seemed true." - GRENDEL

"all he said was ridiculous, not light for their darkness but flattery, illusion..." - GRENDEL

"He [shaper] reshapes the world...and turns dry sticks to gold." - GRENDEL

"If the ideas of art were beautiful, that was art's fault, not the Shaper's" - GRENDEL

∞ "and when the harper's lure drew my mind away to hopeful dreams, the dark of what was and always was reached out and snatched my feet." - GRENDEL

"You want to know about the Shaper./ I [Grendel] nodded/ Illusion."

→ "That's where the Shaper saves them." - DRAGON

"he [shaper] spins it all together with harp runs and hoots, and they think what they think is alive" - DRAGON

⇒ "there is nothing average about expression: it is essentially individual" - DRAGON



Box 3

"Now you know how *they* feel when they see you, eh?" - DRAGON

"Why *not* frighten them?" DRAGON

"Why is it fiddlesticks if I stop giving people heart attacks over nothing? Why shouldn't one change one's ways, improve one's character?" (see ≈) - GRENDEL

"You improve them, my boy! Can't you see that yourself? You stimulate them! You make them think and scheme. You drive them to poetry, science, religion, all that makes them what they are for as long as they last. You are, so to speak, the brute existent by which they learn to defend themselves... Scare him to glory!" (see →) - DRAGON

"You are mankind" - DRAGON

Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing." Shakespeare **Macbeth**

autowreck by karl shapiro

**Its quick soft silver bell beating, beating
And down the dark one ruby flare
Pulsing out red light like an artery
The ambulance at top speed floating down
Past beacons and illuminated clocks
Wings in a heavy curve, dips down,
And brakes speed, entering the crowd.
The doors leap open, emptying light;
Stretchers are laid out, the mangled lifted
And stowed into the little hospital.
Then the bell, breaking the hush, tolls once,
And the ambulance with its terrible cargo
Rocking, slightly rocking, moves away,
As the doors, an afterthought, are closed.**

**We are deranged, walking among the cops
Who sweep glass and are large and composed.
One is still making notes under the light.
One with a bucket douches ponds of blood
Into the street and gutter
One hangs lanterns on the wrecks that cling,
Empty husks of locusts, to iron poles**

**Our throats were tight as tourniquets,
Our feet were bound with splints, but
now,
Like convalescents intimate and gauche,
We speak through sickly smiles and
warn
With the stubborn saw of common
sense,
The grim joke and the banal resolution.
The traffic moves around with care,
But we remain, touching a wound
That opens to our richest horror.**

**Already old, the question Who shall die?
Becomes unspoken Who is innocent?
For death in war is done by hands;
Suicide has cause and stillbirth, logic.
But this invites the occult mind,
Cancels our physics with a sneer,
And spatters all we knew of denouement
Across the expedient and wicked
stones.**