

Grendel Group Work #4 – Chapters 7-9– timekeepers DO YOUR JOB!



1. How does the first line of Chapter 7 reflect the last line of Chapter 6. Be very specific here and use the quotes in answering your question. What does “Form is Function” have to do with anything? Frank Lloyd Wright believed a building’s form should directly reflect its function; in other words doo-dads and decorations that didn’t help the building function (or reflect the space it was built in) should be eliminated. What is Grendel’s form? Therefore (and here you should smell the dragon very strongly) what should his function be?

2. Look closely at pages 99-101. Why is Grendel **so** enraged about the fate of Wealtheow? About how she is being **used**? What is her function (see the last part of the previous question). How is her “sacrifice” such a “wretched violation of sense!” (101)? Why does he say “Mercy”? What is the connection (think hard here) with his first appearance in the mead hall? Who is he asking “mercy” from? How does this “trade” (for her) both enforce and violate men’s use of theories? Use a total of at least 3 quotes in answering this question.

3. Grendel makes a third decision of life over death on page 110 – what (who) is it? How is that connected to your answer to question 1? Now look at the last stanza of the *scene poem* on page 116. Who is it talking about? How can this be specifically (one quote from each) connected to Grendel’s bitterness about Baby Grendel? Finally, discuss again the last line of Chapter 6 – the vision of dragons – and how it fits in here.

from “Autowreck” Karl Shapiro

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.

4. (**most time here timekeepers**) Grendel and the dragon both believe that Man would theorize His way to hell, given the opportunity. The question is, *why*? Does your group believe that this need to theorize or rationalize can be connected to our modern fascination with conspiracy theories?

Consider the assassination of John F. Kennedy, or the idea of the CIA creating the AIDS virus. Recently, shortly after 9/11 a book in France said that the World Trade Center was in fact destroyed by U.S. missiles as a way to remove the Taliban from power in Afghanistan. If relatively simple reasons exists for these tragedies, why then do we choose to believe nearly impossible and complex stories? Think!

Find in your books where Grendel first attacks and devastates the Mead Hall. How do the men react? Whom do they (and others) blame? Why don’t they blame Grendel – how does this fit in with our obsession with conspiracies. find quotes and incidents (at least 2) from the novel in putting together your answer. Finally connect what you wrote to the excerpt from “Autowreck” above.



5. What is the name (**not** King of the Gods) that Grendel gives to himself when he appears before Ork? How is the name fitting and appropriate – Begin with the literal (and the more obvious)? Now, *how else* is he a destroyer? What is he destroying? Be specific – look to that last line of Chapter 6 for help – as well as to his attack on Wealtheow? What about the bird -- While your recorder is writing down your answer begin to read the handout on the back of this sheet.