Grendel Quiz

- **I. Short answer:** On a separate piece of white-lined paper, answer the following questions in a short paragraph each. Use specific references to the text to support your answers.
- 1. Describe Grendel, mentally and emotionally, before he meets the dragon.
- 2. How does Grendel feel about the old Shaper in the beginning of the story?
- 3. How does Grendel feel about his mother?
- 4. How does the dragon change Grendel into the monster we know from *Beowulf*?
- 5. Why are swords useless against Grendel now?
- 6. We learn more about Unferth in this story than in Beowulf. Why does he live in shame and bitterness?
- 7. Describe how Grendel feels about Queen Wealtheow?
- 8. How does Hrothgar come to marry Wealtheow?
- 9. How does Grendel feel when he first sees Beowulf?
- 10. How does Grendel describe his fight with Beowulf?

II. For each quote, identify the meaning and importance of the quote to the story as a whole.

- 1. "Thus I fled, ridiculous hairy creature torn apart by poetry, crawling, whimpering, streaming tears, across the world like a two-headed beast."
- 2. "They only think they think. No total vision. It's damned hard, you understand, confining myself to concepts familiar to a creature of the Dark Ages. Not that one age is darker than another. That's the gist of it. In a billion billion billion years, everything will have come and gone several times, in various forms. Even I will be gone."
- 3. "I no longer remember exactly what he sang. I know only that it had a strange effect on me: it no longer filled me with doubt and distress, loneliness, shame. It enraged me. It was their confidence, maybe their blissful, swinish ignorance, their bumptuous self-satisfaction, and, worst of all, their hope."
- 4. "If I murdered the last of the Scyldings, what would I live for? I'd have to move. So now, for once unsure of victory, I might set limits to desire: go to sleep, put off further raids till the Geats go home."