

*Grendel* – Summer Reading Exam

**Part I – Matching.** *Do not draw lines.*

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Unferth                | A. Hrothulf's Political Counselor                    |
| 2. The Shaper             | B. Can see into the future                           |
| 3. Hrothgar               | C. Priest with whom Grendel has a conversation       |
| 4. Red Horse              | D. Sister of Hygmod and wife of Hrothgar             |
| 5. Hrothulf               | E. The archetypical 'bad guy;' the protagonist       |
| 6. Dragon                 | AB. Thane who travels to Grendel's home              |
| 7. Wealtheow              | AC. Blind poet who provides an illusion of reality   |
| 8. Ork                    | AD. Nephew of the king, considers a revolution       |
| 9. The Stranger (Beowulf) | AE. The only one to successfully battle Grendel      |
| 10. Grendel               | BC. He unites his warring neighbors and builds roads |

**Part II – Multiple Choice.** *Choose the best answer.*

11. How many years does Grendel's battle with the humans last?
- A. Eternally
  - B. Twelve
  - C. Twenty
  - D. Thirty
12. Who or what is Hart?
- A. The Shaper's real name
  - B. Hrothgar's meadhall
  - C. Hrothgar's sword
  - D. The name of the cave Grendel lives in
13. What type of animal is Grendel observing at the very beginning of the novel?
- A. A goat
  - B. A ram
  - C. A dragon
  - D. A bull
14. "It is a matter of fact that I have never killed \_\_\_\_\_ in all my life, and never will," admits Grendel.
- A. A woman
  - B. A cow
  - C. A deer
  - D. A bear
15. What instrument does the Shaper play?
- A. The guitar
  - B. The harp
  - C. The flute
  - D. The oboe

16. Where do Grendel and his mother live?
- A. In an underground cave
  - B. On a mountaintop
  - C. In a tree trunk
  - D. In a lake of snakes
17. Grendel believes that his mother must be part human because...
- A. She was once beautiful in a human way
  - B. She sometimes trades with humans in other villages
  - C. She feels guilty of an ancient human crime
  - D. She appears human, but is larger and has more hair
18. What do the humans think Grendel is when they find him stuck in a tree?
- A. A bear
  - B. A tree spirit
  - C. A Keebler Elf
  - D. An ape
19. What is the dragon's final piece of advice for Grendel?
- A. Read more literature
  - B. Heed the shaper's words
  - C. Find gold and sit on it
  - D. Meditate to overcome anger
20. Grendel learns human history by...
- A. Looking at the pictures woven into the tapestries
  - B. Listening to songs about battles
  - C. Forcing his captors to explain it to him
  - D. He knows it by intuition
21. Who, according to The Shaper, is Grendel's ancestor?
- A. Scyld Shefing
  - B. Cain
  - C. Abel
  - D. The Dragon
22. The gift the shaper delivers that holds Hrothgar and his Thanes in thrall is...
- A. Gold
  - B. His daughter
  - C. Language
  - D. Religion
23. What objects does Grendel throw at Unferth when they battle?
- A. Knives
  - B. Rocks
  - C. Apples
  - D. Wooden God Figures

24. How does Hrothgar become married to Wealtheow?
- A. Grendel brings her to him
  - B. Unferth brings her to him
  - C. She is a peace offering from a rival king
  - D. He took her after pillaging her village
25. Who is the only person who seems happy about Ork's vision of The Destroyer?
- A. Wealtheow
  - B. Hrothgar
  - C. Beowulf
  - D. The Fourth Priest
26. What animal continues to climb up the cliff, even after Grendel pelts it with stones?
- A. A Dragon
  - B. A Deer
  - C. A Bull
  - D. A Ram
27. Who is Breca?
- A. Wealtheow's hunter husband before Hrothgar comes for her
  - B. The Shaper's assistant
  - C. The priest who prays for a destroyer
  - D. Beowulf's childhood friend, who challenges him to a swimming contest
28. Which of these does Grendel compare to wolves when he says "no wolf was so vicious to other wolves?"
- A. His own race of monsters
  - B. Wolverines
  - C. Humans
  - D. Dragons
29. Grendel begins his war with Hrothgar when he realizes...
- A. Hrothgar means to attack Grendel's realm
  - B. He will be attacked by Hrothgar whether or not he means any harm
  - C. He cannot conquer his violent rages
  - D. That Hrothgar is loved by all, which upsets Grendel the outcast
30. Where does Grendel find himself at the very end of the novel?
- A. At the end of the same cliff as Chapter 1
  - B. In his mother's cave
  - C. At the meadhall
  - D. At the tree that trapped him as a child
31. What does Beowulf force Grendel to do during their battle?
- A. Bow down to Hrothgar
  - B. Say a prayer
  - C. Apologize to the Danes
  - D. Make up a song about walls

32. Who plots to overthrow Hrothgar in a revolution?
- A. Frewaru
  - B. Hrothulf
  - C. Beowulf
  - D. Unferth
33. The orphan son of his dead brother, Hrothgar raises him even though he's a danger to his own children's succession.
- A. Hygmod
  - B. Ingeld
  - C. Hrothulf
  - D. Unferth
34. During the long winter, Grendel suffers the most from what?
- A. Hunger
  - B. Nightmares
  - C. Boredom
  - D. Ceaseless rage
35. Grendel discovers that he can't be hurt by the Danes because of...
- A. A charm put on him by the Dragon
  - B. A lucky emerald that he finds
  - C. His mother's spell
  - D. His immortality
36. Hrothulf becomes friends with a peasant who teaches him that all government is...
- A. Necessary to prevent turmoil
  - B. To be overthrown so the people can rule
  - C. Inherently evil
  - D. For the good of the people governed
37. The story is told from whose point-of-view?
- A. Beowulf
  - B. The Shaper
  - C. A 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Narrator
  - D. Grendel
38. Representatives of the Geats arrive on an errand to do what?
- A. Pay tribute to Hrothgar
  - B. Beg Hrothgar for military reinforcements
  - C. Give Hrothgar advice on how to get rid of Grendel
  - D. Band together and get Dragon's gold.
39. How, in Grendel's eyes, does Beowulf manage to best him?
- A. God helps Beowulf
  - B. The dragon gives Beowulf a charm
  - C. He tricks him unfairly
  - D. Beowulf was the better person

**Part III – Line Identification.** *Identify the speaker of the following lines.*

40. “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 as long as they last.”

- A. Grendel’s mom
- B. The Shaper
- C. Ork
- D. The Dragon

41. “You make the world by whispers, second by second. Are you blind to that? Whether you make it a grave or a garden of roses is not the point. Feel the wall: is it not hard? Hard, yes! Observe the hardness, write it down in careful runes, Now sing of walls!”

- A. Wealtheow
- B. The Dragon
- C. Beowulf
- D. The Shaper

42. “The King of Gods is the ultimate limitation...and his existence is the ultimate irrationality...No reason can be given for the nature of God, because that nature is the ground of rationality.”

- A. Hrothgar
- B. Red Horse
- C. Ork
- D. Breca

43. “The total ruin of institutions and morals is itself an act of creation. A religious act. Murder and mayhem are the life and soul of a revolution.”

- A. The Dragon
- B. The Shaper
- C. Unferth
- D. Red Horse

**Part IV – True (A)/False (B)**

- 44. Grendel briefly considers suicide.
- 45. When Grendel is young, his mother tells him stories in their home.
- 46. Grendel is sometimes moved by the poetry he hears from the meadhall.
- 47. Grendel slays Wealtheow in the meadhall to spite the Thanes.
- 48. Grendel attends The Shaper’s funeral.
- 49. The Danes are pleased the Geats have come to save them from Grendel’s savage attacks.
- 50. Many philosophies and beliefs systems are symbolically represented in this novel.