

ANGLO-SAXONS AND THE EPIC

HONORS ENGLISH IV

10 SEPTEMBER 2018

SWBAT: Read closely to identify characteristics of the Anglo-Saxon period, and cite examples to explain how these elements affect the culture of the epic tradition.

EQ: What values and beliefs were important to the members of the Anglo-Saxon culture?

Warm-Up: View the video clip. Write a six-word summary of it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNPcefZKmZ0>

HW: Complete notes for pp. 23-27

ANGLO-SAXONS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON LITERATURE

Your Task:

Read pp. 23-27, and complete the Cornell Notes organizer in dark blue or black pen, or you may use the laptops to create power point slides with the notes on them.

ANGLO-SAXONS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON LITERATURE

Anglo Saxons

- ✘ http://cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?v=U1tldPrQ_AY

Military Equipment and the Anglo Saxons

<http://cleanvideosearch.com/media/action/yt/watch?v=eFZTqAQX2dg>



BEOWULF

A HERO'S JOURNEY

NOTES:

What We Do Know:

Beowulf is the oldest surviving English poem. It's written in Old English (or Anglo-Saxon), which is the basis for the language we speak today.

Some of the characters in the poem actually existed.

The only copy of the manuscript was written sometime around the 11th century A.D. (1000s),



NOTES:

What We Don't Know:

- 1) When it was exactly written.
- 2) Who wrote it.
- 3) How much is based upon historical truth.



SETTING OF BEOWULF



SETTING OF BEOWULF:

- ✘ Although *Beowulf* was written in English, it is set in what is now Sweden, where a tribe called the Geats lived.
- ✘ The story may take place as early as 400 or 500 A.D.



POETRY IN BEOWULF: TERMS TO KNOW

× **Alliterative verse** & **Consonance**

Oft Scyld Scefing sceapena praetum,

Monegum maegpum meodos-setla ofteah;

- × **Alliteration** - is the repetition of initial sounds in neighboring words.
- × **Consonance** - is the repetition of consonant sounds, but not vowels, as in assonance.

POETRY IN BEOWULF: TERMS TO KNOW

- ✗ **Assonance** - is the repetition of vowel sounds but not consonant sounds as in consonance.

fleet feet sweep by sleeping geeks.



POETRY IN BEOWULF: TERMS TO KNOW

× *kennings & caesura*

There was Shield Sheafson, scourge of many tribes,
A wrecker of mead-benches, rampaging among foes.
The men feared the ~~Hall-Watcher's~~ hard hearted hatred.)

- × **Kenning** - poetic phrase, a figure of speech (often metaphors) substituted for the usual name of a person or thing.
- × **Caesura** - is a natural pause or break (especially important if the story is told through oral tradition).



EXAMPLES OF KENNINGS:



Guess the meaning of each kenning.

1) *hronade* = “Whale Road” =

2) *banhus* = “bone-house” =

3) *beaga brytta* = “ring-giver” =

4) *beadoleoma* = “War Friend” =



BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY

GRENDEL PART 1



Objective: Detail and appreciate the differences between the Francis B. Gummere (Harvard Classics) & Seamus Heaney translations.

Instructions:

1) **circle at least 5 examples of alliteration**, underline examples assonance, and **highlight at least 2 examples of kennings** (10 points).

2) While reading, **highlight differences in word choice and write differences you observe with word connotations that you found significant**. After reading, in a short, well written essay, explain at least three differences of HOW the word choice and word connotations affect your understanding of the events of this epic. Be sure not only to explain what the differences are, but also explain WHY the words chosen are important (40 points).

We will practice part 1 together as a class!





BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY

GRENDEL PART 1



Translation by Francis B. Gummere

With envy and anger an evil spirit
endured the dole in his dark abode,
that he heard each day the din of revel
high in the hall: there harps rang out,
clear song of the singer. He sang who
knew
tales of the early time of man,
how the Almighty made the earth,
fairest fields enfolded by water,
set, triumphant, sun and moon
for a light to lighten the land-dwellers,
and braided bright the breast of earth
with limbs and leaves, made life for all
of mortal beings that breathe and move.

Translation by Seamus Heaney

Then a powerful demon, a prowler through the
dark,
nursed a hard grievance. It harrowed him
to hear the din of the loud banquet
every day in the hall, the harp being struck
and the clear song of a skilled poet
telling with mastery of man's beginnings,
how the Almighty had made the earth
a gleaming plain girdled with waters;
in His splendour He set the sun and the moon
to be earth's lamplight, lanterns for men,
and filled the broad lap of the world
with branches and leaves; and quickened life
in every other thing that moved.

Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

kennings

Diction

So lived the clansmen in cheer and revel
a winsome life, till one began
to fashion evils, that fiend of hell.
Grendel this monster grim was called,
march-never mighty, in moorland living,
in fen and fastness; chief of the giants
the hapless wight a while had kept
since the Creator his exile doomed.
On kin of Cain was the killing avenged
by sovran God for slaughtered Abel.
Ill fared his feud, and far was he driven,
for the slaughter's sake, from sight of men.
Of Cain awoke all that woful breed,
Etins and elves and evil-spirits,
as well as the giants that warred with God
weary while: but their wage was paid them!

So times were pleasant for the people there until finally
one, a fiend out of hell,
began to work his evil in the world.
Grendel was the name of this grim demon
haunting the marches, marauding round the heath
and the desolate fens; he had dwelt for a time
in misery among the banished monsters,
Cain's clan, whom the Creator had outlawed
and condemned as outcasts. For the killing of Abel
the Eternal Lord had exacted a price:
Cain got no good from committing that murder
no because the Almighty made him anathema
and out of the curse of his exile there sprang
ogres and elves and evil phantoms
and the giants too who strove with God
time and again until He gave them their reward.

Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

WRITING ABOUT STYLE & DICTION (WORD CHOICE)

Questions to Address in Your Response:

- ✘ Which of the authors best captures the oral tradition by use alliteration, consonance, assonance, and kennings? Why?
- ✘ What are some examples of different words used to communicate the same idea? Which word is more effective in your opinion? Why?

Example:

The Gummere Translation seems to better capture oral tradition of the epic, while the Heaney Translation expresses ideas more clearly in a modern context.

Gummere, uses a kenning and more alliteration in part 1 writing, “**Grendel this monster grim was called, march-riever mighty.**” March-riever mighty is a great stylistic device as it is highly alliterative, easy to remember, and descriptive of Grendel. The Heaney translation, on the other hand, seems to use words with stronger connotations. In the same section, Heaney writes, “**Grendel was the name of this grim demon, haunting the marches.**” Haunting for me holds a stronger image than march-riever.

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY GRENDEL PART 2

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Translation by Francis B. Gummere

WENT he forth to find at fall of night
that haughty house, and heed wherever
the Ring-Danes, outrevelled, to rest had
gone
Found within it the atheling band
asleep after feasting and fearless of
sorrow,
of human hardship. Unhallowed wight,
grim and greedy, he grasped betimes,
wrathful, reckless, from resting-places,
thirty of the thanes, and thence he rushed
fain of his fell spoil, faring homeward,
laden with slaughter, his lair to seek.

Translation by Seamus Heaney

So, after nightfall, Grendel set out
for the lofty house, to see how the Ring-
Danes
were settling into it after their drink,
and there he came upon them, a company of
the best
asleep from their feasting, insensible to pain
and human sorrow. Suddenly then
the God-cursed brute was creating havoc:
greedy and grim, he grabbed thirty men
from their resting places and rushed to his
lair,
flushed up and inflamed from the raid,
blundering back with the butchered corpses.

Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY GRENDEL PART 2

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

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Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY GRENDEL PART 2

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Translation by Francis B. Gummere

Then at the dawning, as day was breaking,
the might of Grendel to men was known;
then after wassail was wail uplifted,
loud moan in the morn. The mighty chief,
atheling excellent, unblithe sat,
labored in woe for the loss of his thanes,
when once had been traced the trail of the fiend,
spirit accurst: too cruel that sorrow,
too long, too loathsome. Not late the respite;
with night returning, anew began
ruthless murder; he recked no whit,
firm in his guilt, of the feud and crime.
They were easy to find who elsewhere sought
in room remote their rest at night,
bed in the bowers,¹ when that bale was shown,
was seen in sooth, with surest token, --
the hall-thane's² hate

Translation by Seamus Heaney

Then as dawn brightened and the day broke
Grendel's powers of destruction were plain:
their wassail was over, they wept to heaven
and mourned under morning. Their mighty prince,
130 the storied leader, sat stricken and helpless,
humiliated by the loss of his guard,
bewildered and stunned, staring aghast
at the demon's trail, in deep distress.
He was numb with grief, but got no respite
for one night later merciless Grendel
struck again with more gruesome murders.
Malignant by nature, he never showed remorse.
It was easy then to meet with a man
shifting himself to a safer distance
140 to bed in the bothies, for who could be blind
to the evidence of his eyes, the obviousness
of that hall-watcher's hate? Whoever escaped
kept a weather-eye open and moved away.

Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY GRENDEL PART 2

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Translation by Francis B. Gummere

Such held themselves
far and fast who the fiend outran!
Thus ruled unrighteous and raged his fill
one against all; until empty stood
that lordly building, and long it bode so.
Twelve years' tide the trouble he bore,
sovrán of Scyldings, sorrows in plenty,
boundless cares. There came unhidden
tidings true to the tribes of men,
in sorrowful songs, how ceaselessly Grendel
harassed Hrothgar, what hate he bore him,
what murder and massacre, many a year,
feud unfading, -- refused consent
to deal with any of Daneland's earls,
make pact of peace, or compound for gold

Translation by Seamus Heaney

Whoever escaped kept a weather-eye
open and moved away.
So Grendel ruled in defiance of right, *King Hrothgar's*
one against all, until the greatest house,
in the world stood empty, a deserted wallstead.
For twelve winters, seasons of woe,
the lord of the Shieldings suffered under
his load of sorrow; and so, before long,
150 the news was known over the whole world.
Sad lays were sung about the beset king,
the vicious raids and ravages of Grendel,
his long and unrelenting feud,
nothing but war; how he would never
parley or make peace with any Dane
nor stop his death-dealing nor pay the death-price.

Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY GRENDEL PART 3

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Translation by Francis B. Gummere

still less did the wise men ween to get
great fee for the feud from his fiendish hands.
But the evil one ambushed old and young
death-shadow dark, and dogged them still,
lured, or lurked in the livelong night
of misty moorlands: men may say not
where the haunts of these Hell-Runes³ be.
Such heaping of horrors the hater of men,
lonely roamer, wrought unceasing,
harassings heavy. O'er Heorot he lorded,
gold-bright hall, in gloomy nights;
and ne'er could the prince⁴ approach his throne,
-- 'twas judgment of God, -- or have joy in his hall.

Translation by Seamus Heaney

No counsellor could ever expect
fair reparation from those rabid hands.
All were endangered; young and old
160 were hunted down by that dark death-shadow /
who lurked and swooped in the long nights
on the misty moors; nobody knows
where these reavers from hell roam on their errands.
So Grendel waged his lonely war,
inflicting constant cruelties on the people,
atrocious hurt. He took over Heorot,
haunted the glittering hall after dark,
but the throne itself, the treasure-seat,
he was kept from approaching; he was the Lord's
outcast.

Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY GRENDEL PART 3

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Translation by Francis B. Gummere

Sore was the sorrow to Scyldings'-friend,
heart-rending misery. Many nobles
sat assembled, and searched out counsel
how it were best for bold-hearted men
against harassing terror to try their hand.
Whiles they vowed in their heathen fanes
altar-offerings, asked with words⁵
that the slayer-of-souls would succor give them
for the pain of their people. Their practice this,
their heathen hope; 'twas Hell they thought of
in mood of their mind. Almighty they knew not,
Doomsman of Deeds and dreadful Lord,
nor Heaven's-Helmet heeded they ever
Wielder-of-Wonder. --

Translation by Seamus Heaney

These were hard times, heart-breaking
the prince of the Shieldings; powerful counsellors,
the highest in the land, would lend advice,
plotting how best the bold defenders
might resist and beat off sudden attacks.
Sometimes at pagan shrines they vowed
offerings to idols, swore oaths
that the killer of souls might come to their aid
and save the people. That was their way,
their heathenish hope; deep in their hearts
180 they remembered hell. The Almighty Judge
of good deeds and bad, the Lord God,
Head of the Heavens and High King of the World,
was unknown to them. Oh, cursed is he

Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY GRENDEL PART 3

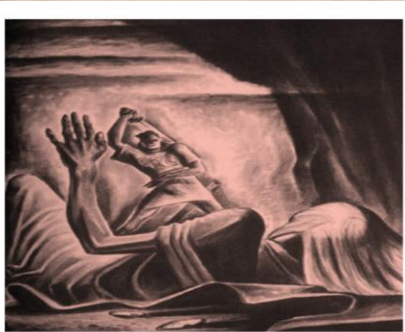
Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Translation by Francis B. Gummere

Woe for that man
who in harm and hatred hales his soul
to fiery embraces; -- nor favor nor change
awaits he ever. But well for him
that after death-day may draw to his Lord,
and friendship find in the Father's arms!

Translation by Seamus Heaney

Oh, cursed is he
who in time of trouble has to thrust his soul
in the fire's embrace, forfeiting help;
he has nowhere to turn. But blessed is he
who after death can approach the Lord
and find friendship in the Father's embrace.



Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF BOAST! Read Beowulf's boast to learn about how men introduced themselves. What do you notice? Do people introduce themselves similarly today?

Translation 1

"We are by kin // of the clan of Geats,
and Hygelac's own hearth-fellows we.
To folk afar was my father known,
noble atheling, Ecgtheow named.
Full of winters, he fares away
aged from earth; he is honored still
through width of the world by wise men all.
To thy lord and liege in loyal mood
we hasten hither, to Healfdene's son,
people-protector: be pleased to advise us!
To that mighty-one come we on mickle errand,
to the lord of the Danes; nor deem I right
that aught be hidden. We hear -- thou knowest

Translation 2

"Thou Hrothgar, hail! Hygelac's I,
kinsman and follower. Fame a plenty
have I gained in youth! These Grendel-deeds
I heard in my home-land heralded clear.
Seafarers say how stands this hall,
of buildings best, for your band of thanes
empty and idle, when evening sun
in the harbor of heaven is hidden away.



Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF BOAST!

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Translation 1

We hear -- thou knowest
if sooth it is -- the saying of men,
that amid the Scyldings a scathing
monster,
dark ill-doer, in dusky nights
shows terrific his rage unmatched,
hatred and murder. To Hrothgar I
in greatness of soul would succor bring,
so the Wise-and-Brave [Hrothgar] may
worst his foes, -
if ever the end of ills is fated,
of cruel contest, if cure shall follow,
and the boiling care-waves cooler grow;
else ever afterward anguish-days
he shall suffer in sorrow while stands in place
high on its hill that house unpeered!

Translation 2

So my vassals advised me well, --
brave and wise, the best of men, --
O sovran Hrothgar, to seek thee here,
for my nerve and my might they knew full well.
Themselves had seen me from slaughter come
blood-flecked from foes, where five I bound,
and that wild brood worsted. I' the waves
I slewnicors [hippomatous or walrus] by
night, in need and peril
avenging the Weders [Geats], whose woe
they sought, --
crushing the grim ones. Grendel now,
monster cruel, be mine to quell
in single battle!..."

Alliteration

Consonance

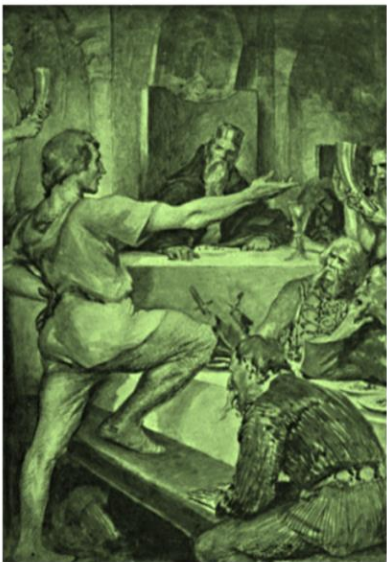
Assonance

Kennings

Diction

CREATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT- CREATE A BOAST!

Beowulf and many brave thanes among the Swedes, Danes, and Geats perceived nothing arrogant in informing the world about who they were, the noble origins of their lineage, what extraordinary feats they have accomplished and foes they have undone. Anglo-Saxon Europe was a land bathed in blood and cowardice cost lives.



Assignment: Write a formal boast about yourself and perform it for the class. Tell us your deeds, who's your daddy/mama, what you plan to do now/later, and how you're not gonna take nothin' from nobody. Your accomplishments may be academic, athletic, musical, social, artistic, etc. Lay aside your humility! Remember, you'll soon be applying for college and may need to do a bit of boasting.

CREATE A BOAST!

Criteria

- ✘ Your boast of **15-20** lines must show your understanding of Anglo-Saxon poetry by following the Anglo-Saxon poetic format:
- ✘ No **end-rhyme**
- ✘ A **caesura** (pause) in each mid-line
- ✘ Heavy **alliteration** in each line
- ✘ Three original **kennings**



BEOWULF VS. GRENDEL CLOSE READING ASSIGNMENT

Instructions: As you read, use this guide to supplement your understanding of the text. For each statement mark either true or false and **give direct quotations** from the text to support your answer.

- 1) T F There are parts within this section which make the reader feel sympathetic for Grendel, especially when we Begin to understand his curse.

Explanation: _____

- 2) T F Fate is an active agent in causing Grendel's demise. Fate also has a significant role when Beowulf fights Grendel's mother.

Explanation: _____

BEOWULF VS. GRENDEL CLOSE READING ASSIGNMENT

- 3) T F The architects of the hall built it so that it would be indestructible. However, despite their efforts, The hall had a weakness, and there was one event which caused it to fall.
- 4) T F Beowulf found a magical sword made by the descendants of Cain.
- 5) T F After Beowulf is told that Grendel's mother's lair is at the bottom a lake, he decides to avenge Herot stating that fate will decide the outcome of this battle.



BEOWULF VS. GRENDEL CLOSE READING ASSIGNMENT

- 6) **T** F It takes four men to carry Grendel's head to Higlac.
- 7) **T** F Beowulf is unharmed in battle because of his chain-mail and God's protection.
- 8) T **F** Two swords are used in the battle against Grendel's mother, both possess magical traits.
- 9) **T** F Both pagan and Christian elements are attributed towards Beowulf's success in battle.



BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY – THE DRAGON (TEST)

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Michael Alexander 1973

But Nægling snapped,
failed in the battle, Beowulf's sword
of ancient grey steel. It was not granted to him
that an iron edge could ever lend him
help in battle; his hand was too strong.
I have heard that any sword, however hardened by
wounds,
that he bore into battle, his blow would overtax
-- any weapon whatever; it was the worse for him.

Kevin Crossley-Holland 1999

But Nægling snapped!
Beowulf's old grey-hued sword
failed him in the fight. Fate did not ordain
that the iron edge should assist him
in that struggle; Beowulf's hand was too strong.
Indeed I have been told that he overtaxed
each and every weapon, hardened by blood, that he
bore
into battle; his own great strength betrayed him.



Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY – THE DRAGON (TEST)

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Michael Alexander 1973

A third time the terrible fire-drake remembered the feud. The foe of the people rushed in on the champion when a chance offered: seething with warspite, he seized his whole neck between bitter fangs: blood covered him, Beowulf's life-blood, let in streams. Then I heard how the earl alongside the king in the hour of need made known the valour, boldness and strength that were bred in him. His hand burned as he helped his kinsman, but the brave soldier in his splendid armour ignored the head and hit the attacker somewhat below it, so that the sword went in, flashing-hilted; and the fire began to slacken in consequence.

Kevin Crossley-Holland 1999

Then the dangerous dragon, scourge of the Geats was intent a third time upon attack; he rushed at the renowned man when he saw an opening; fiery, battle-grim, he gripped the hero's neck between his sharp teeth; Beowulf was bathed in blood; it spurted out in streams. Then, I have heard, the loyal thane alongside the Geatish king displayed great courage, strength and daring, as was his nature. To assist his kinsman, that man in mail aimed not for the head but lunged at the belly of their vile enemy (in so doing his hand was badly burnt); his sword, gleaming and adorned, sank in up to the hilt and at once the flames began to abate. The king still had control then

Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction

BEOWULF COMPARISON ACTIVITY – THE DRAGON (TEST)

Be prepared to highlight your response on the board!

Michael Alexander 1973

The king once more
took command of his wits, caught up a stabbing-knife
of the keenest battle-sharpness, that he carried in his
harness;
and the Geats' Helm struck through the serpent's body.
So daring drove out life: they had downed their foe
by common action, the atheling pair,
and had made an end of him.

Kevin Crossley-Holland 1999

began to abate. The king still had control then
over his senses; he drew the deadly knife,
keen-edged in battle; that he wore on his corslet;
then the lord of the Geats dispatched the dragon.



Alliteration

Consonance

Assonance

Kennings

Diction



Expectations for Pictures

- Quiet and respectful in the hallway.
- Stay together with this class.
- After you get your picture taken, sit quietly with this class. No sitting with other classes or bothering those in other classes.
- Show the underclassmen that you are respectful, young adult LEADERS.
- If you've already had your picture taken, sit quietly where Mrs. Cohoon asks you to sit.

Honors English IV

7 September 2018

Warm-Up: Come in quietly and sit in your assigned seat. No electronics (e.g. cell phones)—per DCPS policy! 😊

Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
1-Burnett	6-Spencer	11-Smullen	16-Betts	21-McKnight	26-Streeter
2-Moeurk	7-Tolley	12-Newton	17-Nichols	22-Collins	27-Carmine
3-Clayton	8-Ralph	13-Fletcher	18-Molock	23-Freeman	28-Edgar
4-Jarmon	9-Cornish	14-Fraccaroli	19-Turner	24-Jones	29-Pantzloff
5-Bloodsworth	10-Shertenlieb	15-Hughes	20-Harris	25-Young	30-Outlaw