Questions for Part I of Beowulf

1. What is Grendel’s lineage? What do the characters in the poem know about Grendel? How is this different from what we know?
2. Describe Herot. Use examples from the text to support your answer.
3. Describe Grendel's lair. How does it compare to Herot? Use examples for support.
4. What is the significance of Grendel being descended from Cain?
5. Why does Grendel attack Herot? What is he motivated by?
6. How many men did Grendel grab and kill when he entered Herot?
7. What had Herot symbolized before the coming of Grendel? After?
8. As a result of Grendel’s attacks, what happened to Herot? Why is that significant?
9. How did Beowulf learn of Hrothgar’s troubles?
10. What are Beowulf’s motives for sailing to Denmark to rid the Danes of Grendel?
11. What does that tell you about Beowulf’s persona?
12. Why is Hrothgar's lieutenant concerned about the arrival of Beowulf and his men?
13. How does the lieutenant recognize Beowulf as a hero?
14. Why is Grendel afraid of the throne in Herot?
15. What are the examples of Beowulf’s boasting? Why does he boast? Do the examples support your previous statements about his persona?