Questions for the reading of Beowulf

Part I. The Battle with Grendel

1. What made Herot such an impressive sight?
2. What are the details we learn about the Grendel as he advances on Herot?
3. Generally describe the events that take place in the mead-hall.
4. What are all the Geats (except Beowulf) powerless against the beast?
5. What proof of victory does Beowulf hang from the rafters?
6. Describe the sights for the curious the morning after?
7. Why wont swords hurt Grendel?
8. How is Beowulf treated after the battle?
9. Describe the “secret place” where the monsters lived. Give at least 4 vivid details.

The Monster’s Mother

1. List some of the difficulties Beowulf faces as he fights Grendel’s mother?
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_was useless and Beowulf’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was destroyed.
3. “Beowulf longed only for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
4. Describe the weapon used to slay the monster.
5. What is Beowulf’s “final revenge” against Grendel’s vicious attacks?
6. Why was Grendel's mother unharmed when struck by Beowulf’s sword?
7. Who did Beowulf give credit to for him not being killed by Grendel’s dagger?
8. Who is inferred to have left the sword for Beowulf to use?
9. After the fight, who is Beowulf alluded to being?

The Final Battle

1. How does Beowulf become king?
2. How long is his rule?
3. What new monster must he fight?
4. How is this monster angered?
5. What can you infer about Beowulf’s point of view towards death?
6. Describe the three parts of Beowulf’s final boast.
7. What happens to Beowulf’s trusted sword during this battle?
8. What is the reaction of the thanes?
9. What does Wiglaf say to the Thanes during Beowulf’s battle with the dragon?
10. Do Christians believe that your ancestors can give you power?
11. Why is it ironic that Beowulf puts so much faith into the sword?