Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hr. \_\_\_

***Beowulf***

Guided Reading Questions

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences as you read the epic.

1. Which of King Hrothgar’s accomplishments dominates Section 1? Why is this accomplishment important?
2. What future event is foreshadowed in Section 1?
3. What is Grendel’s grievance against Hrothgar and Herot?
4. How is the threat posed by Grendel described in Section 2?
5. How do the Danes react to the threat of Grendel?
6. What explanation is given for why the menace of Grendel has stricken the Danes?
7. What happens in the exchange between Beowulf and the watchman when the Geats land in Denmark?
8. What message does Wulfgar take to Hrothgar concerning Beowulf’s arrival?
9. How does Hrothgar respond to the news of Beowulf’s coming?
10. What accomplishments does Beowulf boast of in Section 6?
11. How does Beowulf propose to fight Grendel?
12. In Section 6, what is Beowulf’s view of his chance for success?
13. What does Hrothgar say about Beowulf’s father in Section 7?
14. What does Unferth suggest about Beowulf’s accomplishments in Section 8?
15. How does Beowulf answer Unferth’s allegations?
16. What impression does Queen Welthow make in Section 9?
17. In Section 10, what is the difference between Beowulf and the rest of his men concerning Grendel?
18. What happens upon Grendel’s arrival at Herot?
19. In Section 13, how is Beowulf’s victory seen as affecting Hrothgar’s reputation?
20. How does Beowulf respond to Hrothgar’s praise concerning the defeat of Grendel?
21. How is death described in Section 15?
22. What does Hrothgar give to Beowulf as a reward for victory?
23. What irony underlies Welthow’s speech in Section 17?
24. How is the attack by Grendel’s mother presented?
25. What is ironic about Beowulf’s greeting to Hrothgar the next morning?
26. How is the home of Grendel’s mother described?
27. What does Unferth do before Beowulf’s combat with Grendel’s mother?
28. In his speech before he dives into the lake, what requests does Beowulf make? What do those requests reveal about his character?
29. What takes place during Beowulf’s confrontation with Grendel’s mother?
30. What is written on the hilt of the sword Beowulf found?
31. How does Hrothgar respond to Beowulf’s proclamation of triumph?
32. What becomes of the sword of Hrunting?
33. How does the guard at the shore greet Beowulf?
34. What apprehension does Higlac admit that he felt about Beowulf’s mission?
35. How does Beowulf’s account of his adventures among the Danes differ from what we have already heard?
36. What do we find out about Beowulf’s childhood in Section 31?
37. What events lead to Beowulf becoming king?
38. What causes the dragon to become enraged?
39. How does Beowulf find the dragon’s home?
40. What happens during Beowulf’s confrontation with the dragon?
41. Who is Wiglaf? Describe his character and background.
42. What comfort does Beowulf find even as he lies dying?
43. Why do the Geats spurnt the dragon’s treasure?
44. What actions conclude the poem?