

The Tale Of Mighty Beowulf



Here, let me tell you of the time Hrothgar, king of Denmark, built a hall in his castle. When it was complete, he named it Heorot. Heorot was a hall where the people in the palace ate supper and then slept when it was time for bed.



Nearby there lived a beast who lurked in the dark. He was called Grendel, and was grand and gruesome. Grendel abhorred Heorot (no one knows why); one night he went to the hall, broke through a wall, and found many men to feast on. Grendel growled ferocious and loud, and his red eyes glared in the dark. The noise awoke all who slept in the hall and the knights were poised for battle. But the beast Grendel showed his horrible teeth and grabbed the first knight he found and gnashed him with one big bite. The monster roared and everyone ran, leaving Grendel loudly laughing as he went back to his lair where he soundly slept.



The monster managed to raid Heorot for eleven years. Finally it became clear King Hrothgar needed help killing the beast in battle, because his warriors were dying one by one in this gruesome Grendel War. The Danes prayed to the gods to keep the monster from preying on them.

Their prayers were answered when a ship sailed to their shores. Beowulf was aboard the boat, and he came from across the sea to help Hrothgar from the terror of Grendel's teeth. Beowulf announced himself to Hrothgar, and the King welcomed him with open arms. Hrothgar fed his guest a feast in his hall, and Beowulf announced he planned to fight Grendel with his fists. Unferth, Hrothgar's bravest knight, questioned Beowulf's skill. Unferth asked, "Are you the legendary Beowulf, who took part in a swimming contest with a friend in the ocean? As I have heard the story, you both challenged each other and the sea for seven nights, swimming as far out as you could, beating the cold and angry waves, but in the end your friend won the race, you fell behind humiliated." Beowulf bawked. "You're right brave Unferth, I am that Beowulf.

