**Beowulf Anticipation Guide**

Directions: Decide ( ) whether you agree or disagree with the following statements and explain your choices. Write the explanation below each statement. Pick one that you are especially passionate about because I will be asking for volunteers to share their strongest arguments.

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| **Statement s** | **Agree** | **Disagree** |
| 1. Stronger people should stand up and look out for weaker people. |  |  |
| 1. Stronger countries should fight to help weak countries. |  |  |
| 1. Sometimes war is necessary. |  |  |
| 1. If our country was invaded, I would be willing to fight. |  |  |
| 1. I would fight to protect my family. |  |  |
| 1. One does not need the love of his people to be a great leader. |  |  |
| 1. Knowing the right people is the best way to get respect. |  |  |
| 1. Men have a duty to protect women. |  |  |
| 1. If you walk away from a fight it shows you are less manly than someone who stands up and fights. |  |  |
| 1. Good always triumphs over evil. |  |  |

**Beowulf Character Cheat Sheet**

**Beowulf** – The hero of *Beowulf*, Beowulf is a Geatish warrior loyal to his king, **Hygelac**. Beowulf's father was the warrior **Ecgtheow**, and his mother is a sister of Hygelac. Despite his noble lineage, Beowulf was a bit of a juvenile delinquent, and little was expected of him. But he soon proved his doubters wrong and grew up to be a great warrior. He has the strength of thirty men in his grasp, and rather remarkable swimming ability. In addition to his great warrior skills, Beowulf eventually becomes a strong, powerful, and generous king.

**Hrothgar** – King of the Danes, the son of **Healfdene**, the brother of Heorogar, Halga, and the wife of Onela the Swede. He is also the father of **Hrethric**, **Hrothmund**, and **Freawaru**. Hrothgar is an excellent and successful king. He builds Heorot, a magnificent hall, and is very generous and wise.

**Ecgtheow** – Beowulf's father and the husband of King **Hygelac's** sister. **Hrothgar** gave him sanctuary after Ecgtheow, a Geatish warrior, killed a warrior of the Wylfings.

**Hygelac** – The king of the Geats, son of **Hrethel**, husband of **Hygd**, father of **Heardred**, and**Beowulf'**s uncle. He is a good and generous king.

**Hygd** – The wife of **Hygelac** and the queen of the Geats. Like **Wealhtheow** of the Danes, Hygd is a good and generous queen.

**Hrethel** – **Hygelac's** father, and one-time king of the Geats. His life was made bitter when one of his sons (Haethcyn) accidentally killed the other (Herebeald).

**Heardred** – **Hygelac** and **Wealhtheow's** son. After Hygelac dies, **Beowulf** supports Heardred as boy-king of the Geats even though Beowulf could have taken the throne himself.

**Wiglaf** – The son of Weohstan the Scylfing, and a relative of **Beowulf**, as well as his most loyal warrior. He rules the Geats after Beowulf dies.

**Breca** – A Geat who competed with **Beowulf** in a swimming contest as a youth.

**Wulfgar** – **Hrothgar's** herald. Technically he is a Wendel and not a Dane, but he serves Hrothgar the Danish king.

**Hondscioh** – The Geat whom **Grendel** grabs and eats in Heorot before **Beowulf** fights the beast.

**Scyld Scefing** – A foundling, he became the first king in the Danish royal line. He is the father of **Beow**, and the great-grandfather of **Hrothgar**.

**Healfdane** – **Hrothgar's**father, and the king of the Danes.

**Wealtheow** – The wife of King **Hrothgar** and queen of the Danes, the mother of **Hrethic** and Hrothmund. She is a good and generous queen.

**Unferth** – A Dane, the son of **Ecglaf**, and a follower of **Hrothgar**. Unferth is a jealous and boastful man without much courage to back it up, though he does become more generous after **Beowulf** defeats Grendel.

**Hrethic** – **Hrothgar's** son and heir.

**Hrothmund** – Another son of **Hrothgar's**.

**Hrothulf** – The nephew of **Hrothgar**, the son of Hrothgar's brother. After Hrothgar's death, Hrothulf betrays his cousin **Hrethic**, leading to the burning of Heorot by the Heatho-Bards.

**Beow** – Sometimes called Beowulf I or Beowulf the Dane, he ruled the Danes after his father **Scyld Schefing**. He is *not* the hero of *Beowulf*.

**Aeschere** – An old Danish warrior and **Hrothgar**'s counselor. **Aeschere** is killed by **Grendel's mother**.

**Freawaru** – The daughter of **Hrothgar**, and the future wife of Ingeld, the prince of the Heatho-Bards. Her marriage is an unsuccessful attempt to create peace between the feuding Danes and the Heatho-Bards.

**Ecglaf** – **Unferth**'s father.

**Heremod** – An example of a bad king. An early Danish king, he was once great but was moved by pride to suppress and kill his own people.

**Modthryth** – An example of a bad queen. In her youth she caused people to be killed merely for looking at her. She is said to have improved, becoming generous, after her marriage to the king of the Angles.

**Finn** – In the story of the Fight at Finnsburg, Finn is a Frisian king who marries the Danish princess**Hildeburh**, but then battles and kills Hildeburh's brother, **Hnaef**.

**Hildeburh** – In the story of the Fight at Finnsburg, the wife of the Frisian King **Finn** and sister of the Danish

King **Hnaef**. When these two kings fight, she's caught in the middle, and both her brother and son are killed.

**Hnaef** – The king of the Danes in the story of the Fight at Finnsburg. **Hildeburh** is his sister.

**Hengest** – The Dane who becomes king after **Hnaef** is killed fighting the Frisians in the Fight at Finnsburg.

**Sigemund** – A legendary warrior who killed a dragon.

**Cain** – The Old Testament of the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, tells the story of how Cain killed his brother Abel. Cain was marked by God, so others would know him and cast him out of society. The giants, **Grendel**and **Grendel's**

**Mother**, are descended from Cain.

**Grendel** – A man-eating monster descended from the Biblical **Cain**. Grendel is a "walker in darkness," who is "wearing God's anger," and "lacking in joy."

**Grendel's Mother** – A female version of **Grendel**, she is also descended from Cain.

**Dragon** – A fire-breathing dragon who discovered a lost tribe's treasure and moved into the barrow. After the dragon terrorizes the Geats, **Beowulf** fights the dragon.