**English 11/12 Honors: Tolkien Name:**

**Mr. Fisher**

***Beowulf* Study Guide #1: Beowulf and Grendel (lines 1-1250, p. 1-89)**

Prologue: The Rise of the Danish Nation (lines 1-63)

1. What was unusual about the way Shield came to be ruler of the Danes? What was his funeral like? Why might that be significant?

Heorot is Attacked (lines 64-188)

1. What did Hrothgar build? Why do you think this was important to him? Who attacked it, and with what result? Why did he attack it? What does this say about him?

The Hero Comes to Heorot (lines 189-490)

1. What does Beowulf do when he hears of Hrothgar's problems with Grendel? Why do you think he does this?
2. How does Hrothgar respond to hearing of Beowulf’s arrival? What was his history with Beowulf’s father? How might this affect their relationship?

Feast at Heorot (lines 491-661)

1. What does Unferth accuse Beowulf of? How does Beowulf answer him? What does Beowulf then accuse Unferth of? Overall, what does this episode show us about Beowulf’s character?

The Fight with Grendel (lines 662-835)

1. How does Beowulf's prepare for his fight with Grendel? Is this what you would expect? Why or why not?
2. Read all of Beowulf’s “epic” fight with Grendel. What happened? How was this scene written? How might it have been written differently if this epic poem was published today?

Celebration at Heorot (lines 836-1250)

1. When the Danes and Geats return from following Grendel's tracks to the mere, someone sings in Beowulf's presence, comparing him to Sigemund and saying that he was not like Heremod (lines 883-914). How is Beowulf like Sigemund? How is he not like Heremod?
2. The singer sings of Finn during the feasting (lines 1070-1158). The exact details of the Finn story are not clear, but in general, what happens? What does it suggest about the wisdom of using a woman as bride to heal enmity between tribes?
3. When the feasting resumes, what does Wealhtheow ask Hrothgar not to do? Is she right to make such a request? Why or why not?
4. Why do so many men remain in the beer hall to sleep? Why do you think this may have been a mistake?