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

**Mr. Fisher**

**Beowulf: The Boast with the Most**

Introduction: We have read of the exploits of Beowulf and the many brave thanes among the Danes, Geats, and Swedes. We know, too, that the Anglo-Saxons saw nothing wrong with letting the world know who they were, who their noble parents were, what great feats they had accomplished and what they planned to do next. This boasting was perfectly polite and even expected. In *Beowulf*, see lines 250-285, 407-426, 632-638, and 2510-2515 for examples of the formal Anglo-Saxon boast.

Assignment: Your assignment is to write a formal boast about yourself and, if you wish, perform it for the class. Tell us your deeds, who your daddy/mama are, what you plan to do, and how you're not gonna take nothing from nobody. Unleash your inner arrogance! Your accomplishments may be academic, athletic, musical, social, artistic, or something completely different! Lay aside your humility! Remember, some of you are already applying for college anyway, and may need to do a bit of boasting.

Guidelines: Your boast must show your understanding of Anglo-Saxon poetry by following the Anglo-Saxon format:

• Four hard beats per line

• No end-rhyme

• A caesura in each mid-line

• Alliterative Verse

Additionally, you must include at least two original kennings.

Length: At least 10 lines

Grade: Your boast will be graded based on the following:

1. The Quality and Creativity of Your Boast: \_\_\_\_\_\_/5
2. Correct Use of Anglo-Saxon Poetry Conventions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10
3. The Quality of the Two Kennings: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5

Performance:

* It’s voluntary.
* Graded on-the-spot (find out grade early).
* Will be graded “lighter” than on paper.
* You don’t have to write neatly.