

Y3/4 - Term 5 English Home-Learning Week 5

Week 5 Text Beowulf (Chapters 7-9) - retold by Rob Lloyd Jones

Week 5 completes work based on this retelling of the famous Anglo-Saxon legend of Beowulf. It is a legend that fits in very well with our topic on Voyagers, which includes looking at Anglo-Saxons.

Activity 1 Read and respond to Beowulf Chapters 7-9

A few tips/suggestions for sharing the story

- Look at the page that shows the characters in the story and discuss what you have found out about them so far. Are there any characters that you haven't met yet?
- **Either**, read Chapters 7-9 to your child, stopping at various places to check understanding, discuss the characters, enjoy the illustrations, predict what might happen next or explain any new vocabulary
- **Or**, let your child read the chapters to you (but guide them to include the above activities)
- Possible discussion points after you have read this next part of the story:
On slide 5 Beowulf tells the King that the 'the darkness you see is the monster and I am the light'. What do you think he means?
Can you think of 3 powerful adjectives to describe how Beowulf feels when he is dragged under the water by 'long tentacles'? (slide 6)
Why do you think Beowulf insists on fighting the dragon by himself?
Which monster in the story do you think is most threatening? Why?
Can you find examples of how the writer uses light and dark in these chapters? Is it helpful? Why?
Do you like the ending of the story? Would you like to change it?
How much of the story of Beowulf do you think is true?

Activity 2: Choose from these writing activities (we suggest you choose at least one of these activities, although some children may want to do more)

- Make a story map of the whole story using pictures and words (using the Chapter headings as prompts is very helpful)
- Oral storytelling - the story of Beowulf was written down as an epic poem, but it would have been retold orally at feasts too. Imagine you are in a great Anglo-Saxon hall (you could recreate the scene by sitting on cushions, drinking 'mead' and eating Anglo Saxon biscuits) and take turns to retell the story of Beowulf orally.
- Write a paragraph describing Beowulf's fight with Grendel's mother.
- After the defeat of Grendel's mother, Beowulf rules as King for 50 years. Imagine you are a King or Queen and write a list of laws that your subjects would have to obey.

- Write from a different point of view - imagine you are Wiglaf and retell the part of the story where Beowulf fights the dragon from Wiglaf's point of view OR imagine you are the dragon and tell the story from its point of view.
- Read through Chapters 7-9 and write down any words that are new to you, or words that you are unsure of the meanings. Look up the meanings and put the word into a new sentence.
- Rob Lloyd Jones likes to use powerful verbs in his writing to interest the reader - how many examples can you find? Which ones do you think are most effective? Why?
- Victor Tavares is the book's illustrator - imagine you have been asked to design a new cover for the book. Write a blurb too.
- Write a book review of Beowulf. Include a summary of the story, the main characters in it and your opinion.
- Write your own Beowulf adventure.
- Create your own cartoon version of the story.

Activity 3 Grammar:

Y3 and Y4: Cursive Handwriting

Possible resources:

- Cursive Letter Formation PowerPoint (this shows children how to form each letter properly and they can then practise them)
- Fine Motor/ Gross Motor Warm Up Exercises
For those who struggle with handwriting, there are some great exercises here that will help to strengthen the muscles.
- Pencil Control Patterns Worksheet

Activities for children to choose from:

Children can choose to copy one of the suggested poems or choose/write a poem of their own. Remind children that this exercise is to practise cursive handwriting, so they should ensure that they are trying their best to form the letters correctly. They should take their time and take care over their presentation. Children could illustrate their poems once they have finished.

- The Eagle Poem
- Windy Nights Poem
- Find or write a poem of your own