

Y3/4 - Term 5 English Home-Learning Week 3

Week 3 Text *Beowulf* (Chapters 1-3) - retold by Rob Lloyd Jones

Week 3 is 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.

A bit of background on Beowulf for parents

Beowulf is the title of the earliest existing Anglo-Saxon **epic**. It tells the story of Beowulf, a Norse hero and warrior who fought and conquered several monsters that terrorized Denmark and Sweden. The poem combines elements of Anglo-Saxon culture with Christian moral values in an extraordinary adventure story.

The manuscript containing the story of Beowulf was discovered in England in the 1600s. It is written in Old English, the language of the Anglo-Saxon invaders who settled in England between 450 and 600. The writer was probably either a monk or a poet connected to a nobleman's court in central or northern England.

Beowulf is set in a much earlier time than the period in which it was composed, and the action takes place in Denmark and Sweden. The story reflects the warrior culture of ancient Germanic peoples, among whom wars were common and fighting was a traditional occupation. The king supplied his warriors with food, shelter, land and weapons. In return, they were bound by oaths of loyalty and obedience to the king. The legend emphasises values that were important to Norse warriors, such as courage, loyalty to one's king and comrades and honour for those who fight and die bravely.

Activity 1 Read and respond to *Beowulf* Chapters 1-3

A few tips/suggestions for sharing the story

- Explain that the story is set in Denmark and Sweden a long time ago - look up where these countries are
- Look at the cover together and discuss what you think the story will be about
- Look at the page that shows the characters in the story and discuss what kind of characters you think they may be.
- **Either**, read the story 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 story to you (but guide them to include the above activities)

- Possible discussion points after you have read the story:
What did you enjoy about it and why?
Which character did you like best and why?
What do you think of the illustrations? What do they add to your understanding or enjoyment of the story?
On slide 7 the writer tells us that 'Grendel hated laughter', what do think that tells us about the monster?
Beowulf is a Geat and we are told that the Danes (from Denmark) and the Geats (from Sweden) were enemies - so why do you think Beowulf wants to help King Hrothgar?

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)

- Create your own A4 poster of the characters featured in the story
- Copy out the description, on Slide 5, of King Hrothgar's huge hall in your neatest handwriting and illustrate it.
- On slide 6 the writer describes what happens in Heorot each evening. Write a paragraph describing the hall and all that goes on - use all your senses.
- Look up the meanings of these words from the story and either write out the meanings or put the word into a new sentence
gruesome, roam, craggy, lavish, warrior, rage, lair, swamp, coastguard, gleamed
- Victor Tavares is the book's illustrator - imagine you have been asked to illustrate the story - draw and label your own idea of Grendel.
- Rob Lloyd Jones likes to use prepositional phrases in his writing - how many examples can you find?
- Draw and label a picture of Beowulf and write a few sentences to show what you know about him so far.
- What happens next? Write the next chapter of the story.

Activity 3 Grammar:

Y3: Prepositions

Possible resources:

- BBC Teach clip to explain prepositions:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYd7dg2I-9k&feature=youtu.be>
- This is a song to help remember what a preposition is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byszemY8Pl8>
- BBC Bitesize (this includes a short video):
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zw38srd>
- Prepositions PowerPoint (this has practice activities)

Worksheets for children to choose from:

- Y3 Missing Prepositions (answers provided)
- Y3 Preposition Detectives (answers provided)
- Y3 Prepositions Sentences (answers provided)
- Y3 Preposition Sort (answers provided)

Y4: Prepositional Phrases

Possible resources:

The first three links recap what a preposition is.

- BBC Teach clip to explain prepositions:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYd7dg2I-9k&feature=youtu.be>
- This is a song to help remember what a preposition is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byszemY8Pl8>
- BBC Bitesize (this includes a short video):
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zw38srd>
- Prepositional Phrase PowerPoint
- PDF Parent Notes (brief explanation of prepositional phrases)

Worksheets for children to choose from:

- Identify Prepositional Phrases (answers provided)
- A Messy Bedroom (answers provided)
- Prepositional Openers