

Beowulf Quotations

Directions. Give the name (or if *unnamed* in the text, give the *identity*) of the character(s) or object(s) being described. Sometimes the character describes himself, and sometimes the character is described by the narrative voice or another character. Some answers may be used more than once:

1. *He was a peerless king
until old age sapped his strength and did him
mortal harm* _____
2. *I who am telling you
have wintered into wisdom.* _____
3. *None of them expected he would ever see
his homeland again or get back
to his native place and the people who reared him.* _____
4. *[Hrothgar's] highest-placed adviser,
his dearest companion, was dead and gone.* _____
5. *He was not man enough
to face the turmoil of a fight under water
and the risk to his life.* _____
6. *His father before him was called Ecgtheow.* _____
7. *I am Hrothgar's herald and officer.* _____
8. *Adorned in her gold, she graciously saluted
the men in the hall, then handed the cup
first to Hrothgar . . .* _____
9. *Hrothgar . . . named him hall-warden* _____
10. *Then he who had harrowed the hearts of men
with pain and affliction in former times
and had given offense also to God
found that his bodily powers failed him.* _____
11. *Before long
the battle-dodgers abandoned the wood,
the ones who had let down their lord earlier,
the tail-turners, ten of them together.* _____
12. *a traditional singer deeply schooled
in the lore of the past, linked a new theme
to a strict meter.* _____

13. *Every nail,
claw-scale and spur, every spike
and welt on the hand . . .
was like barbed steel.* _____
14. *And compensation
a price in gold, was settled for the Geat
Grendel had cruelly killed earlier* _____
15. *a rare and ancient sword . . .
The iron blade with its ill-boding patterns
Had been tempered in blood. It had never
failed the hand of anyone who hefted it in battle* _____
16. *that swamp-thing from hell,
the tarn-hag in all her terrible strength* _____
17. *Hygelac's kinsman kept thinking about
his name and his fame: he never lost heart.* _____
18. *Everywhere the havoc he wrought was in evidence.
Far and near, the Geat nation
bore the brunt of his brutal assaults
and virulent hate.* _____
19. *with his own hands washed [Beowulf's] wounds,* _____
20. *[it] looped and unleashed itself.
Swaddled in flames, it came gliding and flexing
and racing toward its fate.* _____
21. *From head to tail, his entire length
was fifty feet.* _____
22. *[she] sang out in grief;
with hair bound up, she unburdened herself
of her worst fears* _____
23. *They said that of all the kings upon earth
he was the man most gracious and fair-minded,
kindest to his people and keenest to win fame.* _____
24. *the one who had started all this strife
. . . was now added as a thirteenth to their number.
They press-ganged and compelled this poor creature
to be their guide.* _____
25. *[He] discovered
deadly poison suppurating inside him* _____