

**Third Class: Heaney—89-131; lines 1251-1887**

1. How does the scop characterize Grendel's mother's prowess?
2. What two deeds especially outrage the Danes when she is driven off? The origins of both Grendel and his dam are a contrast to those of the Scop and his listeners. What's the point here?
3. Hrothgar has another request for Beowulf... what do you make of Beowulf's existential answer? His mail, helmet, like other items, have their effectiveness discussed. What do you make of Unferth's offer?
4. Beowulf declares a will before going into battle. How do you understand his character, the values of this society as per Beowulf's testaments?
5. Hand to hand combat again, the strength of Beowulf's mail, but then in his fight with the troll-hag, Beowulf needs help. In light of the Christian interpolations, what is the message the Scop is trying to impress on his warrior audience?
6. What is the difference in the behavior of the Danes and Hrothgar and the thirteen Geats waiting by the bloody mere? Message again?
7. From the battles with the monsters, what existential points is the Scop making?
8. After Beowulf presents the giants' sword hilt to Hrothgar, the Danish king discusses the qualities of kingship. What are these?
9. Why is Heremond, evidently an historical Danish king, a bad ruler? (Recall "The Lay of Finn.")
10. What is the trap Hrothgar exhorts Beowulf to be wary of?
11. How does Beowulf treat Unferth before his departure to Geatland?...what purpose do you think Unferth serves?  
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**Fourth Class: Heaney—131-157; lines 1888-2220; “The Wayfarer,” Pound and Auden versions; “The Wife’s Lament,” and “The Husband’s Response.” These will be emailed. For this class we will concentrate on “The Wife’s...” and “The Husband’s...”**

1. Heaney: lines 1915-1923—great passage! Compare with “The Wayfarer,” also Pound and Auden versions.

2. What do you make of the story of Modthryth? The poem was most likely composed by a man, copied by a monk in a monastery's scriptorium, not the most feminine friendly place. Do you think you can get a focus on the possible personalities of Wealtheow?

Read "Wife's Lament" here...then "The Husband's Response..."

3. Beowulf recounts his battles with the monsters and brings back some gossip. What does he think of the political alliance Hrothgar is hoping to achieve? Comments on the role of women in politics?...

4. What happens to the treasures Beowulf brings back? What protocols are followed? What virtue is being celebrated here?

5. Beowulf was scorned as a youth—can you recall this trope being used in other works?