

Chapter 11

Words:

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| 1. inexorable | 3. pommel | 5. ruse |
| 2. gannet | 4. grotesque | 6. maniacal |

Questions:

7. Compare Grendel's first sentence with the young priest's "squeal" from ch. 10.
8. How did Grendel "know" that the 'heroes' were coming? Compare it to his previous strict belief in rationality.
9. Where do the Geats, the "heroes," come from? (See ch. 10, q 10 & q 11) Compare Grendel's assessment of the Danish coastguard in this chapter with the one in chapter 10.
10. How does Grendel describe the leader of the band? What similes does he use?
11. Why is Ork dismayed?
12. Characterize the tone and diction when Beowulf (who remains unnamed) speaks.
13. What is the smell that Grendel picks up around Beowulf? Where is the Dragon's scent?
14. Characterize the young Shaper's song. What would you say is the main theme?

Analysis:

15. Grendel's thoughts from previous chapters are directly contradicted twice. What does this imply about the limitations Grendel's "reason"?
16. Where is Beowulf compared to a sea creature? How does this compare to the astrological sign? How does it fit with Grendel's mother's warning in the previous chapter?
17. On p 156-7, Grendel muses for a while on the nature of order and chaos. What is his basic evaluation of the two?
18. Where else has Grendel had the vision of roots and an abyss?
19. How could the priests' request for the Destroyer be fulfilled? (Depends on your point of view)

Notes:

The cave my cave is a jealous cave: Deuteronomy 5:9 (KJV), Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.