

Chapter 2

Words:

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| 1. Degenerate (15) | 5. Scornful (20) | 9. Anarchistic (22) |
| 2. Boles (18) | 6. Crevasse (21) | 10. Pungent (23) |
| 3. Flue (18) | 7. Inviolable (21) | 11. Shale (23) |
| 4. Putrefaction (19) | 8. Enmity (22) | |

Questions:

12. Where did Grendel grow up?
13. What was the first thing he saw in the sky?
14. What comes out of Grendel's mom's mouth, usually?
15. What attacks the Grendel & the tree? What is Grendel's assessment of this creature? How is he himself different?
16. What do the humans try to get for Grendel? Why? What does this imply about the priest's powers?
17. What is Grendel's predicament concerning language, especially as it relates to humans and his mother?
18. Who saves Grendel?
19. At this point, how does the world begin to look to Grendel? What does he use as a method to define things?
20. How can he possibly think that "I exist, nothing else" (28)?
21. How does Grendel begin to use words to distance himself from the immediacy of experience?
22. According to Grendel, at least at this point, if the self is conscious, and I can consciously observe my other "self" (or body), then what is actually doing the experiencing?

Supplemental Readings:

"The Allegory of the Cave" (Plato)

23. Make an illustration of the cave.
24. Describe other "caves" in modern life in which people might be "imprisoned" or feel "imprisoned".
25. If a prisoner is released from the cave and compelled to look toward the light, what will he experience? Why?
26. What are the stages of the liberated prisoner's experience outside the cave?
27. If the liberated prisoner goes back to the cave and tries to explain to his former fellow prisoners, what kind of reaction will he get? Why?
28. What is truth according to Plato in this allegory?
29. To what extent do you find Socrates point about human tendency to confuse "shadows" with "reality" relevant today?
30. What could be the elements that prevent people from seeing the truth, or regarding "shadow" as the "truth"?
31. How does Grendel's experience mirror the experience of Plato's nascent philosopher in his allegory?

“Consciousness of Consciousness” (Julian Jaynes)

32. What physical thing does he compare consciousness to? How is this analogy quite effective in describing the difficulty of looking for the difference between conscious/unconscious?
33. Discuss the issue the example of playing the piano. Why is consciousness more of a burden than an aid? Have you ever had consciousness “get in the way” in your own life?
34. How does consciousness aid us in speaking? Then what does the actual sound creation?
35. What are the 5 things which Jaynes attempts to prove that consciousness is NOT necessary for?
36. According to Jaynes, in order to consciously remember something, what do most likely do?
37. Where did Aristotle think consciousness resided? Where do we think it resides? Is it really there?
38. If we identify our selves as our consciousness selves (which most of us do), then where are we? What does this mean for our own bodies?
39. How can we apply some of these ideas to Grendel’s psychological and philosophical understanding of himself?