

## Chapter 7

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### Words:

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| 1. blight       | 7. hoarfrost  | 13. Sheen     |
| 2. bludgeon     | 8. Ingenious  | 14. Smart (v) |
| 3. Byrnie       | 9. Keel       | 15. Tedious   |
| 4. Chilblains   | 10. Muse (v)  | 16. Torus     |
| 5. exorcise     | 11. Nihilism  |               |
| 6. Helm (naut.) | 12. Pitch (n) |               |

### Questions:

17. Explicate: “Form is function. What will we call the Hrothgar-wrecker when Hrothgar has been wrecked?”
18. Where can we find examples of balance?
19. How is Grendel’s phrase, “Form is function,” put to use in the narrative?
20. “Twelve,” Grendel says, “is a holy number.” Where is there evidence that twelve is the key number to this story?
21. How does Grendel count his “numberless” blessings?
22. He drops into a mathematical description of the queen (in fact, it is the language of calculus)—why? Can you write the equation he describes (he’s looking for the volume of an irregular three dimensional shape, ie., the queen).
23. When he begins the flashback, what happens to the style? How does form indicate function?
24. How & where is Unferth described as isolated? Why is he alone?
25. Characterize Grendel’s first description of Wealtheow.
26. What is Grendel’s initial response to Wealtheow’s beauty? What does he do to protect himself from such strong feelings?
27. On p. 103, what can we infer that Unferth is shamed by?
28. How does Wealtheow heal this festering emotional wound?
29. How are Grendel’s emotions linked to his desire to attack the queen?
30. Why does Grendel change his mind about killing the queen?

### Analysis

31. If, for Grendel, form is function, what about substances, or the things that fill forms? How does Grendel understand meaning? How do we generally think about meaning? From whence does it derive?
32. In this chapter, Grendel seems to be letting loose—lots of word play, silliness, farcical behavior. What might this say about his mental/emotional state? How much is he like the Dragon? Why?
33. Look for poetic elements in the prose sections. Can you find any, especially metaphors, similes, and alliteration (which mimics the Shaper’s style of poetry)?

34. Compare and contrast the different kinds of “alone” that Grendel, Unfreth, Hrothgar, and Wealtheow, live.
35. Grendel says “nothing... could change my mind! I changed my mind.” Does this mean that Grendel sees himself as a nothing? How is Grendel’s concept of himself a key to understanding his actions?
36. What does Grendel achieve by turning the queen into a mathematical equation? How does Grendel deal with the battle between his emotional and rational natures?