

Chapter 8

Words:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. advocate (n.) | 5. legitimate | 9. transmogrified |
| 2. Brachiating | 6. meritorious | 10. transvaluation |
| 3. dappled | 7. pretender | 11. tyrannical |
| 4. hoard | 8. Sougning | 12. vile |

Questions:

13. Why does Hrothulf come to Hrothgar's hall?
14. Hrothgar quotes part of the Beowulf poem to himself: "(Oft Scyld Shefing)", why?
15. What images are associated with Hrothulf? What overall impression does this create of him?
16. Explicate: "Man's violence is chained/ to good (i.e., to the king): legitimate force/ that chops the bread-thief's neck and wipes its ax.—Death/ by book." (Use Hobbes and Machiavelli)
17. Explicate: "The total ruin of institutions and morals is an act of creation. A *religious* act."
18. According to Red Horse, what are the values that keep the ruling class in power?
19. How do Red Horse's words echo the Dragon's?
20. Why is Grendel subject to "a welling of confused, unpleasant emotion" when he looks at Hrothgar?
21. What are the political realities that worry Hrothgar?
22. Why does Grendel continue to harass Hrothgar?
23. What does Grendel mean when he says "I cannot believe such monstrous energy of grief can lead to nothing!"
24. What might the one tree with a double trunk be a metaphor for?

Analysis

25. Is it true that all governments are monstrously evil? What might governments do besides attempt to preserve their own power?
26. How are Grendel and Hrothgar the same?
27. Why is there "no final prospect but failure"? What is Grendel getting at?
28. Why might Grendel feel the need to justify himself towards the end of this chapter? What might this say about his own inner nature? (ie., does he have a conscience?)
29. If Grendel believes that something must come of all of this—what is he really saying about his belief system? What would the Dragon say? What would Unferth say?