

Beowulf's Boasts

Write your own Anglo-Saxon boasts

Background

The epic poem, Beowulf, is over 3000 lines long! The poem has lots of examples of 'boasts' which were commonly used by Anglo-Saxon warriors. They would gather in the mead-hall and make these boasts shortly before a big battle. The Anglo-Saxons saw them as a symbol of the warrior's bravery; the bigger the better!

I will defeat the monster alone and with no weapons!

My heart is firm, my
hands are calm.

Only I could hope to
defeat this monster!



Instructions

1. Write two boasts which Beowulf might declare in Heorot before a battle.
2. Remember, the bigger the better!

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Instructions

1. Write some boasts which Beowulf might declare in Heorot before a battle.
2. Remember, the bigger the better!
3. Explain why Beowulf's boasts were the reason for his defeat against the dragon.

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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is a vertical margin line on the left side, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled document.

I will defeat the monster alone and with no weapons!

Only I could hope to
defeat this monster!

My heart is firm, my
hands are calm.



Instructions

1. Write a speech which Beowulf might make the night before a battle.
2. Include plenty of boasts and remember, the bigger the better.
3. Explain why Beowulf's boasts were the reason for his defeat against the dragon.

4. Give your speech to your class!